

Prayer of the Week

The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands Psalm 19:1

During the periods of lockdown, I really appreciated the views from my home: the three bridges, the Pentlands in winter, lovely sunsets and seasonal changes. However, at night, the illuminated bridges, the curving patterns of street lighting and our reliance on light emitting technology, which have their own beauty and value, nevertheless deprive us of the sight of dark skies filled with breathtaking myriads of glittering stars.



There is so much about our natural world that speaks to us about the amazing beauty and intricacy of tiny things but nothing testifies to the greatness, power and creativity of God more than a vast sky filled with glimpses of light from some of the 200 billions stars in our galaxy. If that is not incredible enough, there are estimated to be at least another 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

The lack of opportunity to marvel at a night sky, however, can easily reduce our vision of our 'great big God'. I was therefore, grateful for the recent Brian Cox series, 'Adventures in Space and Time'. The programmes are science based and contain much about wonderful human achievements in exploring space—rather like a space generation Tower of Babel. However, they inevitably say so much about our Creator God.

Cox reminds us that, in the universe, the earth is just a tiny speck of dust and we are surely infinitesimally smaller specks: prompting the response 'What is man that You are mindful of us?' (Ps. 8) He talks of how the earth had no life and that there 'had to be a Genesis to life'.

He also explores the question, 'Are we alone?' He tells of one of the Voyager spacecrafts that has been travelling out into space for 32 years, still taking pictures. It is now 14 billion miles from earth and its messages take 15 hours at the speed of light to reach earth. Great radio transmitters have also been listening for decades for any signals from space.

While there may be primitive life forms, Cox says, 'the more we hear silence, the more we have to consider how valuable we are in this system.'

How great Thou Art

O Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds
Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed.

Prayer

Almighty God,

In the beginning you looked at your creation and declared that it was good.

Prosper and encourage all who strive to preserve and conserve the earth's goodness.

May fashionable words about conservation turn into fruitful action at global, national and individual levels.

And trouble the minds of all who live greedily and carelessly as if this were not the only earth. Amen