



THE OFFERING HOUSE

The Offering House is open during the opening hours of the Kirkyard, which are normally 8am to 5pm, but extended to 8pm in July and August. Its history is set out inside in the History Corner—please come in and read it. Explore the display on the central stand, which changes from time to time and which is currently about Prayer at Liberton Kirk, a vital part of our church life. On the shelf to the left as you enter are leaflets and booklets which you might find interesting—please take one if you wish.



THE WORD FOR TODAY

The Bible speaks to us in today's world

The Liberton Kirk Word for Today is a short Bible passage divided up into sentences or phrases, each with a meditation and a prayer. We believe the Bible is very relevant to our lives today and many found this to be so during the recent pandemic when The Word for Today was attached to the church walls so that people could stop and read it on their daily exercise—highly recommended for our well-being in the lockdowns!

The Word for Today has moved indoors into the Offering House (on the fireplace wall) for the Autumn and Winter. Please take time to read it and pray the prayers yourself if you wish. The current Bible passage is Psalm 8, which begins “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” It reminds us of the wonder of God and his creation, and of our privileged position within that creation, which brings responsibility. The Bible translation used is the New International Version, and you can view Psalm 8 for yourself easily on the internet under Bible Gateway.



**“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the
heavens.”**

1



Sometimes this world just takes your breath away! Whether it is up at the top of a mountain in the Alps, looking down on a sea of cloud and fields far below, or sitting in an Edinburgh churchyard looking up at the sky and the trees, it's amazing! It tells us what God is like—glorious, majestic, awesome. It draws us closer to him because we can feel his presence in such beauty and diversity.

***Lord, everything shouts your glory
from the ladybird to the giraffe, the snowflake to the volcano.
Help us never to take this world for granted
but to see your hand in all of it.***



THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise because of
your enemies, to silence the foe and
the avenger.”**

2



One thing which is obvious from our Summer Buzz Club—children don’t hold back! When they praise God, they put their whole hearts into it! God sees the power in this and uses it to counteract the forces of evil and darkness always eager to attack him.

Centuries after this psalm was written, Jesus said that we all need to be like children if we are to enter God’s kingdom. We too need to be wholehearted and totally trusting.

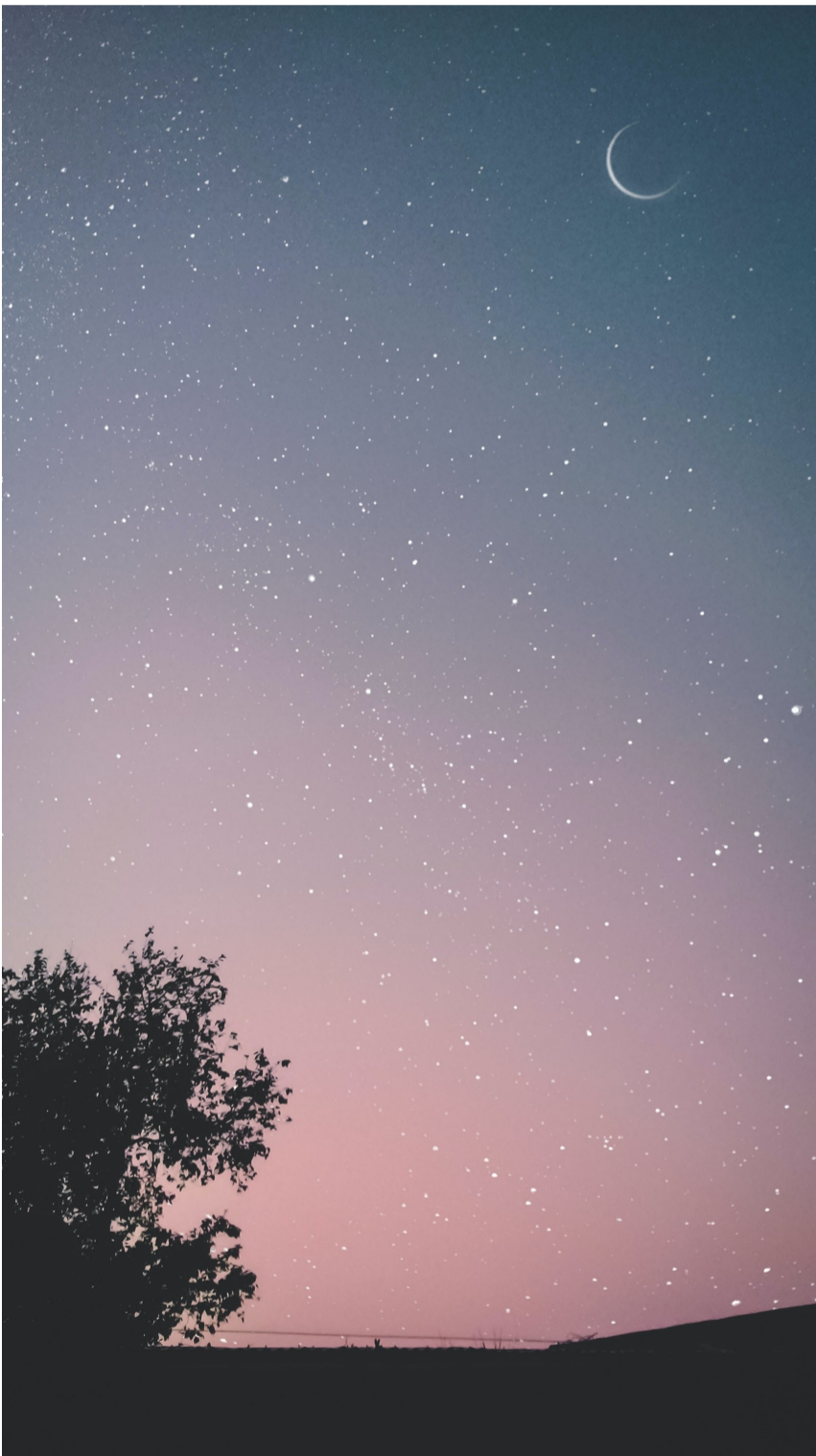
***Lord, give me a childlike faith to trust you in all things.
Let me be wholehearted in my praise
so that evil thoughts and temptations can have no hold over me.***



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

3



If you've ever been in a “dark sky” area, or even in the depths of the country at night, you will have a sense of the millions of stars out there in the vast canopy of space. You will also appreciate just how small a human being is in God's great creation. Perhaps David wrote this psalm when he was a shepherd, out on the hills near Bethlehem one night.

David knew that God had created all this wonder in the night sky, and was staggered to think that God could be bothered to look after each insignificant human being. Yet David knew that God did care for him and watch over him, and would continue to do so.

***Lord, we are in awe of your creation.
We are overwhelmed that you care
for us so dearly.***

***Thank you for giving us lives to live
and for the love you shower on us.***

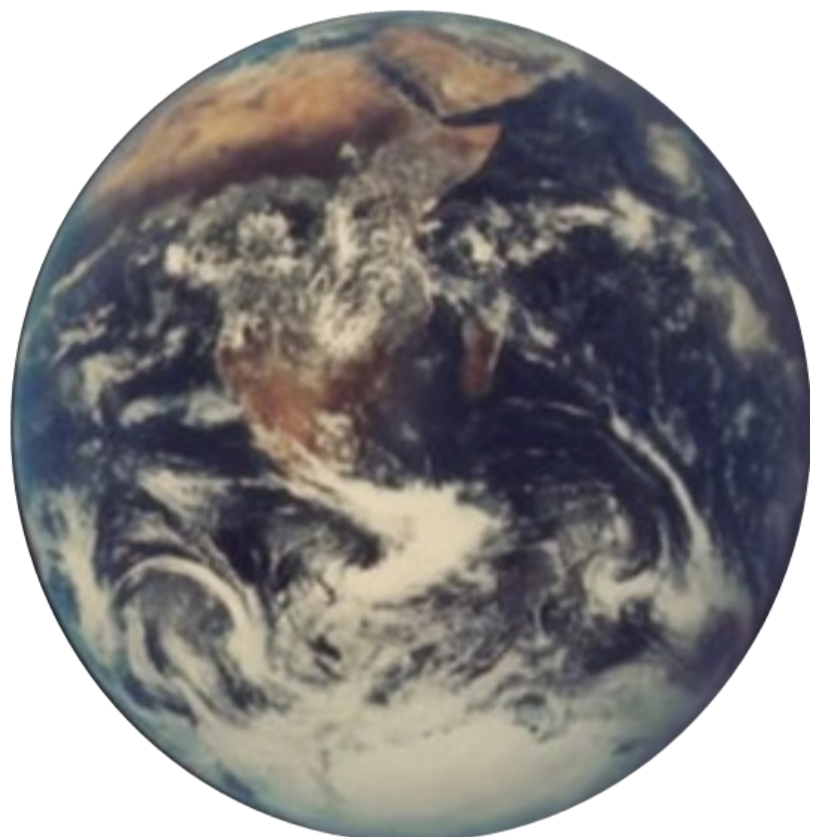


THE WORD FOR TODAY

“You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet; all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.”

4

God doesn't just care and provide for us richly, he trusts us to look after his creation—the works of his hands. He made us in his image and put us in a privileged position. What an awesome responsibility—this planet is in our hands! What a mess we are making of it in our selfish and unthinking pursuit of “progress”. Climate change is wreaking havoc all around the globe, with extremes of weather and rising sea levels. Many creatures are extinct or endangered. This is topical because of COP26, but action is needed not just by world leaders but by us as individuals. Have you worked out how you can play your part?



***Lord, forgive your people for past mistakes in caring for this world.
Help me to play my part in saving this planet for future generations.
Guide the leaders of the nations too to take decisive action.***



THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!”**

5



Despite our failures, we can still call this Sovereign Creator God “our” God. We can recognise his majesty and give him all the honour. Best of all, we can trust our lives to him and can get to know him as our loving Father. When David wrote this psalm he knew God as the Lord of his life. What a difference this makes! If you have not already done so, ask him into your life today.

*Lord, draw me closer to you.
Open my eyes to your love, and deepen my faith.
Be the Lord of my life I pray.*



THE WORD FOR TODAY

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