

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

07/03/2021 -- Lent 3

Look to God



Today is our fortnightly zoom
"Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat.

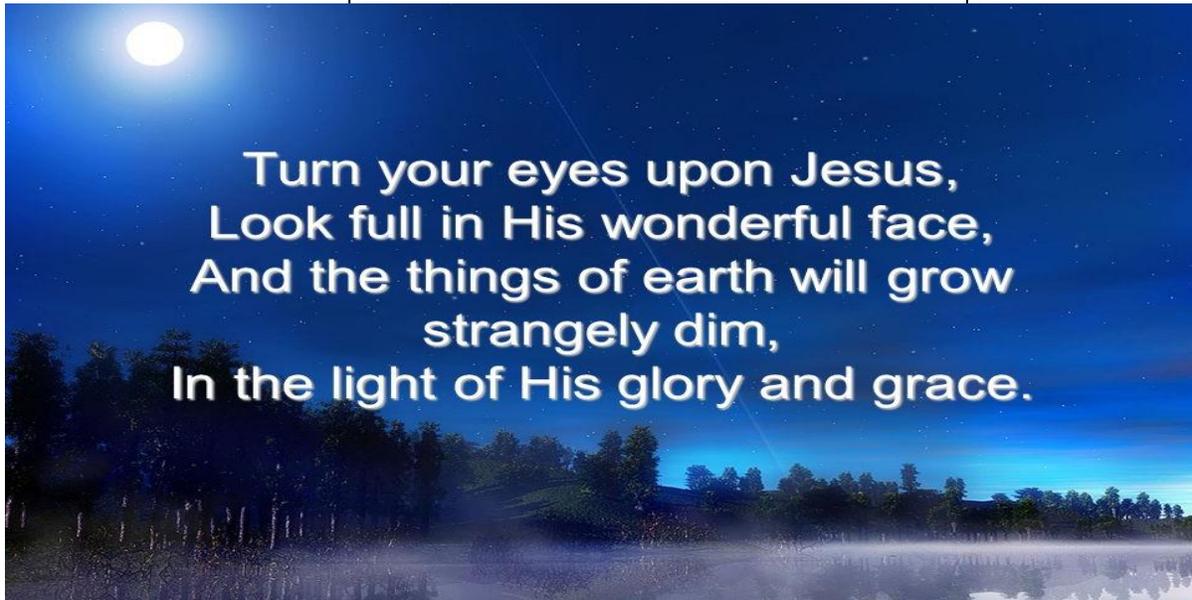
If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Next week is church parade on zoom at 11am

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

[Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - Cindy Rethmeier \(worship song with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)



Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our hymn for today "O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder"

[O Lord my God, When I in Awesome Wonder \(How Great Thou Art\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

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

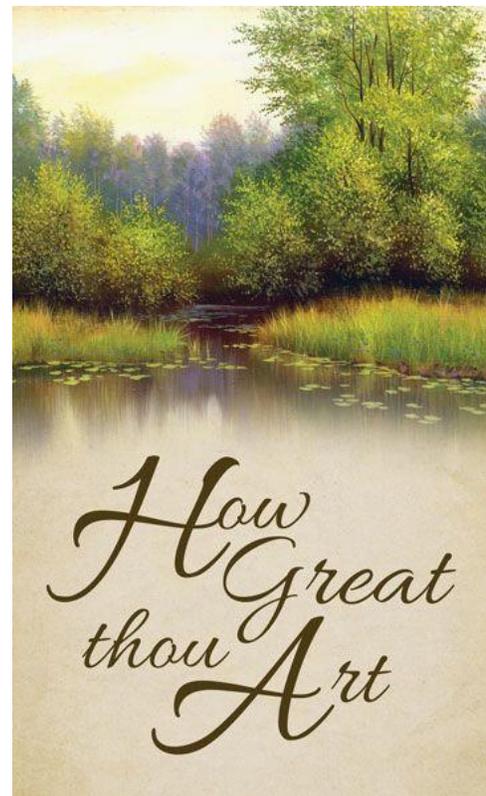
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think of God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,.....

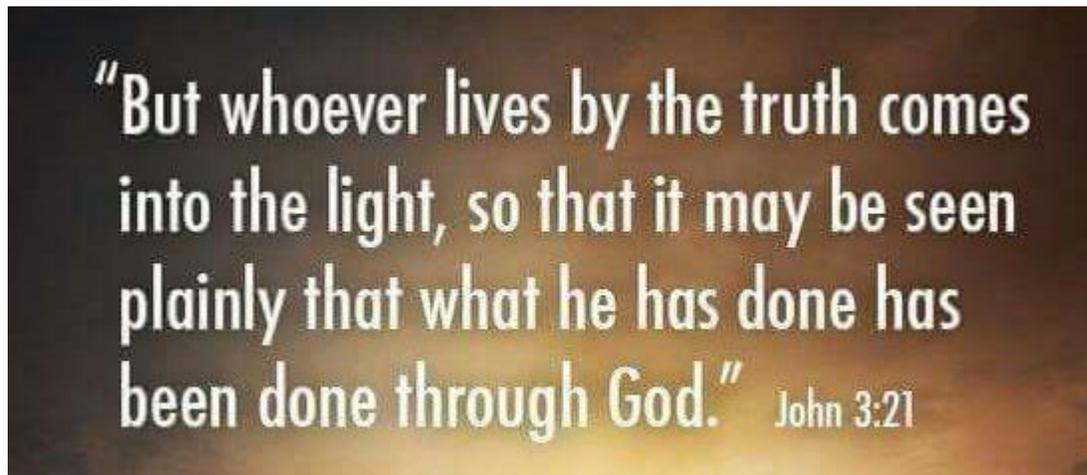
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow with humble adoration,
And then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou



The reading today is John 3:1-21

[John 3: 1-21 NIVUK - Jesus teaches Nicodemus - Now there was - Bible Gateway](#)



Look to God

This week, as we continue through the 40 days of Lent stopping, looking and listening to God, we are focusing on Looking to God.

We know as we look around, we can see God's beauty everywhere, as we wake we see the sun rise, the fresh dew on the plants. We see flowers, birds, animals, rainbows, beaches, mountains, meadows, fields, sunsets. Then at night we see stars, the moon, owls, night animals. We also see, hope, happiness, new birth Joy. This whole sheet could be just a list off all the amazing things that God has provided.

We can also look around and see things that are not so nice, rubbish on the streets, graffiti where it's not wanted, pollution, ripped out forests. We also see sadness, grief pain, loss of hope not the things we want to see spoiling Gods awesome beauty.

As I look out my window as I write this I see a flock of geese flying North, a little early I think but it is a beautiful day.



Have you ever noticed wild geese flying in a v-shaped formation? They do that because it is the most efficient way for them to travel. The goose at the tip of the "V" feels the

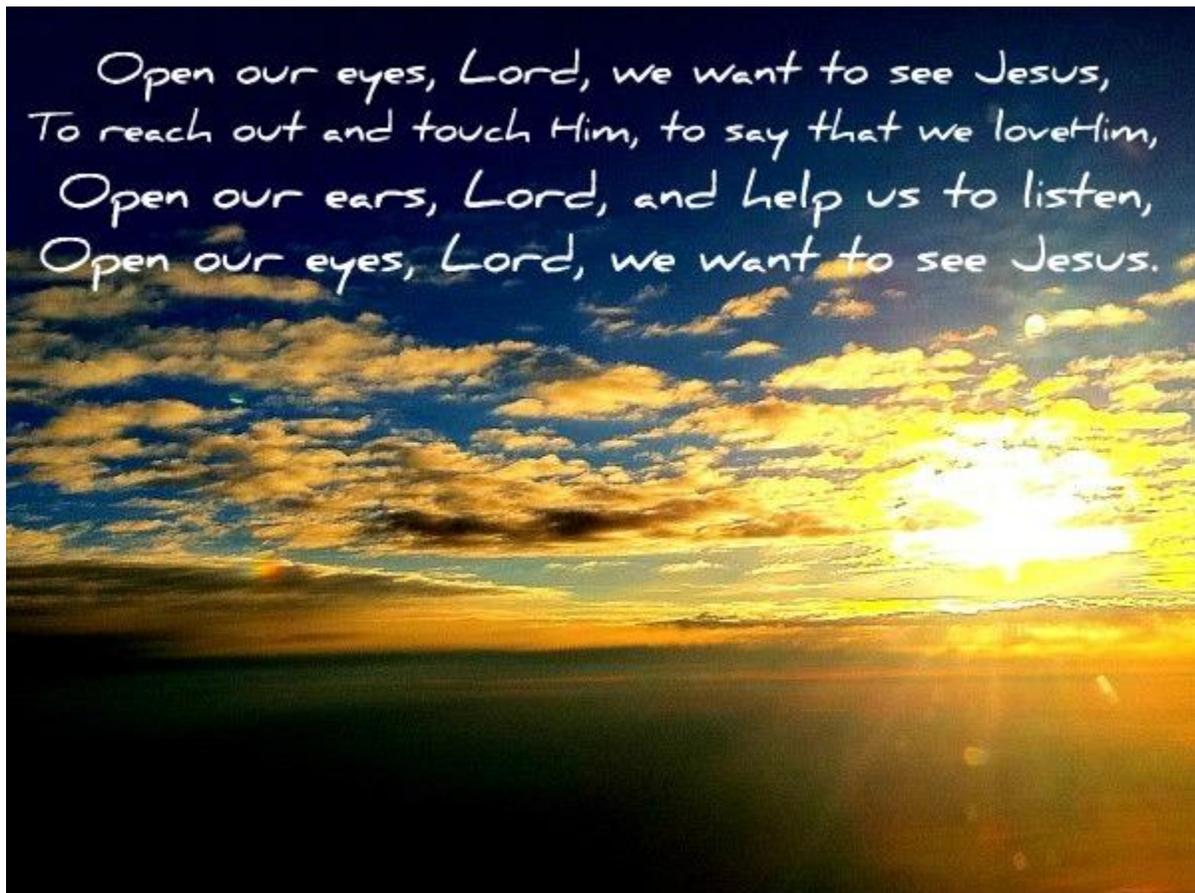
wind's force the most, while the others are more protected. When the lead goose gets tired from flying in the foremost position, another goose moves in to take a turn.

Wild geese, like many other types of birds, migrate. They fly to warmer climates when the temperature drops, snow covers the land and the lakes freeze over. They fly back to northern locations as the temperatures begin to get warmer. They migrate so they will be in a place that provides them with adequate food and good nesting areas. Birds have an internal clock that tells them when to start their migration, and they have amazing ways to stay on course.

Geese use their eyes to check for landmarks like rivers and mountain ranges. They navigate by watching the position of the stars and sun. They look for the amazing things that God hath provided to guide them to where they need to be to survive.

Migrating birds must eat to build up fat in their bodies so they will have energy for the long journey. Once they start their migration, they do not look back. All their effort is focused on getting to their destination.

When Jesus came to live on earth, he had a purpose. All his energy was directed toward God's plan. He did not look back but did what was necessary to reach his destination. Jesus wants us to do the same. He wants us to look around, be guided by what we see, enjoy the beauty of the gifts he gives us and like those geese, use all we see to stay on course and focus on our destination.



[Open Our Eyes Lord with Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Today's Pray:

Dear God. Help us always remember to look for you in all we see and to look to you for guidance on life's journey. Help us during this Lent to keep our focus on you. Amen

God
gave me eyes to see.

Draw what you can see.

