

Thoughts on distance

It seems strange returning to these thoughts I had just started working on before being rushed into hospital. I have always been fascinated by matters of time and distance. When we used to change appointments it used to amuse me to think that we had travelled a couple of hundred miles only for life to carry on afresh from where we had left off.

One of the amazing things about this lock-down period has been the way in which musicians from all over the world have got together to perform. Here is an international production of 'Happy Song' put together by Australian Sam Creamer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzAq_wpfJDw

The spell in hospital highlighted some of the issues of isolation which have affected people in different ways, but I was always conscious of the words of John Gowan:

Do you sometimes feel that no one truly knows you,
And that no one understands or really cares?
Through his people, God himself is close beside you,
And through them he plans to answer all your prayers.

Chorus

Someone cares, someone cares,
Someone knows your deepest need, your burden shares;
Someone cares, someone cares,
God himself will hear the whisper of your prayers.

Ours is not a distant God, remote, unfeeling,
Who is careless of our loneliness and pain,
Through the ministry of men he gives his healing, In
their dedicated hands brings hope again.

Psalm 145:10-21

All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you..They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does The LORD is near to all who call on him to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desires of those who fear him he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJmMY5RW6ZA>