

If you were able to see the online service for Keith you will have heard Duncan remembering how their dad made him and Stuart play 'The wonder of his grace' in one breath; an example of Keith's excellent training being passed on to his sons. And it meant that this melody certainly stuck in their mind.

Howard Davies, the composer of the song once explained : "The inspiration for the song came through seeing the beauty of the Australian night sky with the stars so clear – the thought from Psalm 8 coming to mind: '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?'".

During lockdown we walked to the cliff tops near our house to see the space capsule which had been launched from Cape Canaveral the previous day. On schedule, a small gleaming object approached over the house tops and then made its way across the sky ahead of us. The power of mankind to accomplish things which have in the past seemed impossible seems boundless. However, as the psalmist realised, we are but a pinprick in the vastness of space and this can make us feel very insignificant.

The words of Howard Davies' song are familiar to us. Take a few moments to read them reflectively now...

Many are the things I cannot understand;
All above me mystery I see;
But the gift most wonderful from God's own hand
Surely is His gift of grace to me!

*Higher than the stars that reach eternity,
Broader than the boundaries of endless space,
Is the boundless love of God that pardoned me;
O the wonder of His grace!*

When I came to Jesus with my sin and shame,
And to Him confessed my deepest need,
When by faith I trusted fully in His name,
God's rich grace was granted me indeed.

Passing understanding is His boundless love,
More than I can ever comprehend;
Jesus, in His mercy, left His throne above,
All to be my Saviour and my Friend.

We might feel insignificant but God loves us even though we don't deserve it and has shown us this through Jesus:

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV

As you consider this verse, listen again to the beautiful playing of Gordon Hill - 'The Wonder of his Grace'

<https://youtu.be/wFjzE-hcamc>