



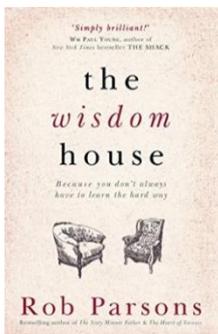
# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 31: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Friends,

Over the last eight months, a number of events that had previously taken place as physical gatherings have been adapted so that they could be shared on-line with anyone with an internet connection.

It is now possible to sit in one's home and to attend a concert, to watch a play or indeed to join in worship. A few weeks ago, Joy and I attended an on-line event organised by Care for the Family. The speaker was Rob Parsons, the founder of Care for the Family. The event was called 'The Wisdom House'. Over the course of the evening, Rob Parsons imagined himself sitting with each of his grandchildren in turn, passing on to them some of the wisdom that he had gained over the years.



It was a very inspirational and enjoyable evening and the event ended with the actor David Suchet (of Poirot fame) reading a poem that is attributed to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Rob Parsons said that he chose the poem to end the evening because he felt that it summed up much of the wisdom that he had been trying to share throughout the event.

The poem is called 'Anyway' and it is said that Mother Teresa had the words hanging in a frame on her office wall. The poem goes like this:

*People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.*

*What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.*

*Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.*

*In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*

That poem is a powerful reminder that our value lies not in what other people think of us, but in the value that God places upon each one of us. In John's Gospel chapter 15 v 9 Jesus says to his closest friends, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you". We find our value not in the opinion of others but in the fact that each one of us is loved by Jesus to the extent that he was willing to give his life for each one of us.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*

## Worship Reflection

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! (Ps 95v1)

### Hymn (StF 347)

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly  
anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for  
thee, and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.



Prayer: To you O God, be praise and glory, worship and adoration, today and always. Amen.

### Bible Reading (Ephesians 1 v 15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness

of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

#### Reflection:

This week we celebrate the 'Feast of Christ the King'. This is celebrated on the Sunday immediately before Advent Sunday and it marks the end of the cycle of the Christian year which starts at the beginning of Advent.

We are perhaps more used to thinking of the year starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> or perhaps for those involved in education on September 1<sup>st</sup> with the start of a new academic year. However, the cycle of Bible reading used in the Christian church begins with Advent by looking forward during the weeks of preparation to the celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This annual cycle takes us from a focus on the vulnerability of the infant Jesus born in a stable to the celebration of Jesus who is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'.



One of the readings for this week is included above. It comes from the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians and draws our attention to the fact that Jesus is not only raised from the dead but is now 'seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places'.

Over the next few weeks we will be invited in our thoughts to come and worship at the Bethlehem stable, but the 'Feast of Christ the King' reminds us that we are also invited to come and worship Jesus seated on the heavenly throne.

#### Prayers of Intercession

This week we pray especially for:

- Those in leadership in our country as they plan vaccine distribution.
- Those who long to see family members in care homes and hospitals

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

#### Hymn (StF 331)

King of kings, majesty, God of Heaven living in me,  
gentle Saviour, closest friend, strong deliverer,  
beginning and end, all within me falls at your throne.

Your majesty, I can but bow, I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve I live to serve your majesty

Final Prayer Lord Jesus help us to worship you not only in the Bethlehem stable but also on the heavenly throne. Amen

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## Glimpses of God's Glory

You are invited to submit a photograph or photographs that you or someone you know has taken which could be described as a 'Glimpse of God's Glory'. Please include 100 to 150 words describing what the photograph or photographs mean to you.



This week's contribution is from Richard Hoyland from North Camp. Richard writes "In February 1952, when I was seven, my family came back to England after four years in Australia. We stayed briefly in a little house near the cliffs at Fairlight Cove in Sussex. It snowed, it was so cold, and I was saddened at leaving our lovely home in the country near Melbourne. England seemed so dull. On our way through London the buildings were blackened from decades of chimney smoke and six years of bombing during WW2. Even in Sussex the sky was grey, the trees were bare and the few birds and animals I saw were dull brown and black. Then, as spring approached, I caught sight of a Goldfinch. It's bright colours and chirpy behaviour filled me with hope that life would get better, and it did! In fact, my childhood was full of love and delight. God provides for our needs. This photograph was taken by a friend of mine Jon Shipman".

Bible Reading: © Biblica 2011. Some prayers: Methodist Prayer Handbook © TMCP 2019/2020. Some prayers taken from "2000 prayers for public worship" by Nick Fawcett. CCLI No 000295.

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