

Week 4 Stars and Seasons

Opening Music

Great is thy faithfulness (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqSW9I0kaQI>)

Reading

Genesis 1:14-19

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Reflection

To be able look up on a clear night sky and see the stars can take our breath away. The immensity of space that we see humbles us and enables us to glimpse a little of our immeasurable creator.

Abram (later renamed Abraham) couldn't count the stars but believed that God's promise to bless him and give him descendants would come to pass. Gazing at stars – so many we cannot count them – can remind us of God's care, also beyond measure.

Make time this evening (or on the next clear night) to gaze at the night sky. Pause to reflect on how everything and everyone is bound to one another and to God.

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sunhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it."

C.S. Lewis

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I see everything by it."

C.S. Lewis

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

John Muir

Lights in the night, the lucid moon and sun,
The lesser and the greater share your light
And lift my heart to you when day is done,
Lights in the night.

And lonely souls are gladdened by the sight,
For those who dwell in darkness hope is born.
The scattered stars still tingle with delight

Treading the dance, the seasons in their turn
Salute the lights of heaven in their flight.
In our dark hearts your praises shine and burn;
Lights in the night.

Malcolm Guite

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/seven-whole-days-the-fourth-day-sun-moon-and-stars/>

The warmth
of the sun's embrace,
the gentle breeze swept in
by incoming tide,
the rhythm of seasons,
of new birth,
death and recreation.
All these speak so clearly
of your love,
your power
and your beauty.
All are expressions
of your creativity,
and more importantly of yourself.
As an artist might share his personality
within each brushstroke,
so within the myriad colours
of a butterfly's wing,
you share the exuberance of your love.

That we can glimpse you
within creation is a beautiful thought,
but also tells us
that you desire to be seen,
to be found and known.
Open our eyes, Lord,
as we walk through this world,
feel the wind and sunshine,
see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes.
Help us
to see you.

<https://www.faithandworship.com/creation2.htm>

Music

Graham Kendrick, *The Servant King*
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAdWs-ZyEk>)

Prayer

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his son
to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love.
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

Amen

(https://www.faithandworship.com/creation_prayers.htm)

Closing Music

Graham Kendrick, *The Servant King*
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAdWs-ZyEk>)