

## Pwrpt 1

### Christmas Hope for a weary world (BBC-20/12/20)

## Pwrpt 2

### Intro:

#### **O Holy Night**

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'  
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the Angels' voices  
Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born

- “The weary world rejoices”
- 2020 has been a wearying year
  - Australia
    - Bushfires- people are still picking up the pieces
    - Drought
    - China’s trade war
  - Globally
    - COVID- how it has affected our lives from work, to schooling, to church- to everything. The adjustment needed to take place in all of our lives has been mentally and emotionally stressful.
    - But what about Zimbabweans- Read Barnabas
    - BLM- should actually be ‘OBLM’ (Only BLM)-where, contrary to Martin Luther King’s dream, people are being judged by the colour of their skin
  - Locally (BBC)
    - Cancer among a number of members and/or their family members

- Members with medical operations and ...
- And who can forget the crushing time the VR’s have gone through and are still going through
- Members here with aged parents needing to transition into care

IF YOU FEEL WEARY- THERE’S GOOD REASON! IT HAS BEEN A WEARYING YEAR.

Friend msgd and said he wasn’t looking forward to Christmas- separated without family- Nigel’s comment

#### Pwrpt 3

A weary world Mt.11:28-30- <sup>28</sup> *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

#### **The weariness of the world then and now**

The world at the time of Jesus’ birth must have also been very weary.

- Sin
- Idolatry- the Jews couldn’t get it right; Idolatry in Mackay- e.g., 93yr old man I visited, “Their god is money”.
- Corruption of heart- Ezra/Nehemiah – the people brought sin back with them
- Corruption in politics-
- the corruption of the Jewish priesthood- starting from 174B.C. – the rich Jews would buy the right to High Priest from the occupying forces of the time whether Gk or

Roman. Caiaphas- archeological excavations show they lived in wealthy opulence- they were making money from religion.

- Religious sectarianism- Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes
- Poverty
- Endless wars – Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome
- Govt overreach- Herod and Augustus

#### **THE PEOPLE WERE WEARY!**

Pwrpt 4- Read: Lk.1:46-55

**Mary’s Magnificat (Lk.1:46-55)- Jesus, the Shalom (the setting things right) for a world that had lost hope, had come.**

#### **The Magnificat**

- Prayed in the context of the spiritual hopelessness of Israel and the world, the political turmoil and destruction, the poverty and injustice
- V46- Magnificat is the 1<sup>st</sup> word of Mary’s prayer found in the Latin Vulgate=magnifies= Lk.1:46= megalunei= magnify, enlarge- the idea of gushing out praise- the words were so easily on her lips because they were already in her heart.
- V48- NB. The trust with which Mary accepted her position- she shows maturity beyond her years- WHY?- because she knew her Lord intimately-she had spent much time meditating on his word and the ramifications it had for everyday life.

– V47- Mary rejoiced in this gift of life God had given her- every child is a gift from God- but hers was extra special.

- V47- **“my saviour”**- Mary needed a personal saviour just like the rest of us (Rom.3:23). But the salvation she speaks of is even more far reaching than spiritual salvation- v51-53

– V48- **“humble estate”** = low social status- Mary was a poor girl- she saw herself as τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ - the Lord’s female slave. *The Great Reversal*

#### The Great Reversal v51-53

1. V51- he scatters the proud – the proud are those who boast in themselves -**God vindicates**
2. V52a- he brings down the mighty from their thrones – **God levels**
3. V52b- he exalts the humble – **God lifts up** – we don’t do this ourselves
4. V53a- he fills the hungry w/good things – **God provides generously**
5. V53b- the rich he sends away w/ nothing – **God puts the self-sufficient in their place**

#### **JESUS WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD TO BEGIN SETTING RIGHT ALL WRONGS.**

– V54-55- God keeps his promises to Israel-to Abraham and his offspring- Christians inherit those promises.- WE NEED TO CLAIM THEM AS OUR OWN

- Gal.4:4- <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...

#### **“A THRILL OF HOPE- the weary world rejoices”**

##### Pwrpt 6

##### **Application:**

Next week -joy

Jesus said, Mt.11:28-30 (MSG)- <sup>28-30</sup>*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

We are going to play a song- take note of the words and the sentiment- this is a time for contemplation- a time to let the rest, mercy, grace and love of God wash over you like a waterfall on a hot day.

He is here. He cares. “You have kept count of my tossings, put my tears in your bottle, are they not in his book?” Ps.56:8

Worn

This is a modern day Psalm- for some of you it will express where you are at right now- for others who aren’t there maybe you can think of those who are there right now...

The message is – yes, “I’m worn...I’m tired and weary...but I call out to you God because I know in you I will find deliverance. We rejoice because we know that Jesus has come to set things right- to bring redemption to this tired old world.

This can be your prayer to God.

##### Video