



Today we are considering the issue of prejudice. Of course what we have discovered in the past few weeks is that although the minor prophets were written many centuries ago, some of their themes are as relevant today as they were then.

Whether we're at home or in church, whether we're dressed in our Sunday finery or still in our pyjamas, whether we've had a good week or a bad one – let's come with open hearts and minds to praise God and receive from Him what He wants us to learn.

Song

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross

You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy, worthy, worthy

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me
All that You've done for me

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START HERE:

1 Corinthians 12:13 – For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free, and we were all given one Spirit to drink

Galatians 3:28 – There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Read Acts 6:1-7

Teaching - Elizabeth Smith

Personal story - Christian Hibbert

Song

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like
But I've heard the tender whispers of love in the dead of night
And you tell me that you're pleased
And that I'm never alone

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching
For answers only you provide
'Cause you know just what we need
Before we say a word

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Because you are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us

You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us

Oh, it's love so undeniable
I, I can hardly speak

Peace so unexplainable
I, I can hardly think

As you call me deeper still
Into love, love, love

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are

And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett
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Song

Before I spoke a word,
You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me

Before I took a breath,
You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it,
I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God.

When I was Your foe,
still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me

When I felt no worth,
You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it,
I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God.

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me

There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless
love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the ninety-nine

And I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still,
You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,
reckless love of God

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Prayer

To the Creator of all races and peoples,
who loves each of us for our uniqueness,
we offer our prayers of petition: For an end
to discrimination in all its forms, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That each person may be respected and
valued as a child of God, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the Church may be a witness and a
universal sign of unity among all peoples,
we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That each of us may acknowledge our part
in mistakes and sins of the past pertaining
to discrimination and racism, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

For a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation
among peoples who share a history of
mutual mistrust, hatred or aggression, we
pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the victims of racial prejudice may
forgive those who persecute them, and
that their persecutors may have a change
of heart, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

That the Church will continue to strive to make every element of human life correspond to the true dignity of the human person, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer.

For the conversion of the hearts and minds of those who allow another's race to influence their relationships and limit their openness, we pray

Lord of all nations, hear our prayer. Amen.

Now to the King eternal,
immortal, invisible,
the only God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever.