

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Significant

**"A matter of sensibility ... seeing and hearing the significant things."**

Aldous Huxley, *Texts and Pretexts*

As I process the events of Queen Elizabeth's funeral, I'm reflecting on words from two sections of the Westminster Abbey service which I found significant: first, *My soul, there is a country*, by the 17<sup>th</sup> century Welsh poet, Henry Vaughan, as an anthem from *Songs of Farewell* by Hubert Parry.

*My soul, there is a country  
Far beyond the stars,  
Where stands a wingèd sentry  
All skilful in the wars:*

*There above noise, and danger,  
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,  
And One born in a manger  
Commands the beauteous files.*

*He is thy gracious friend,  
And (O my soul, awake!)  
Did in pure love descend,  
To die here for thy sake.*

*If thou canst get but thither,  
There grows the flower of Peace,  
The Rose that cannot wither,  
Thy fortress, and thy ease.*

*Leave then thy foolish ranges,  
For none can thee secure,  
But One who never changes,  
Thy God, thy Life, thy Cure.*

Second, an anthem written for the service by Sir James MacMillan CBE, a setting of Paul's affirmation of faith from his Letter to the Romans:

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.*

I have been "seeing and hearing ... significant things" today. Perhaps these words might turn out to have some significance for you too.

### **A prayer for today**

*Lord, speak to me of significant things, and increase my sensibility in hearing them. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon    Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>*