Lt-Colonel Bren...: Good morning. Our service this morning commenced with a beautiful hymn. Oh, Worship the King, all glorious above. Oh, gratefully sing His power and His love. Our shield and defender, the ancient of days. Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise. And what a better way to praise and worship him this morning than being outside in the midst of His splendor here in the park? I don't know where you find yourself this morning, but I hope that as we share together, we will be encouraged and find hope amidst this unchartered territory. And what better place to find hope than to look to His word, which informs us that God has a plan for us, that He loves us, and that He is doing a new thing through us? God has a plan for us. God is a God of order. He brings order out of chaos and uncertainty.

Think back to the beginning of the Bible to the creation story. God had a plan when He created the world. He created light and darkness and oceans and seas and vegetation and livestock and humankind. Genesis 1:4 states that God is pleased with His creation and saw that it was good, and later in that chapter states, "God saw that it was very good." He was pleased with his creation and His plan is perfect. Later, in Psalm chapter 32 verse eight, it says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the ways you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Isn't this comforting? We are not alone in this. We are not alone in this. God will teach us and instruct us in the way that we should go. He, our creator, is going to keep His eye on us. Why? Because He loves us and He wants us to be in relationship with him.

In 1967, Howard Davies penned the beautiful words and melody of the song known to many Salvationists around the world entitled the Wonder of His Grace. The first verse and chorus says this. "Many are the things I cannot understand. All above me, mystery I see, but the gift most wonderful from God's own hand, surely is His gift of grace to me. Higher than the stars that reach eternity, broader than the boundaries of endless space, is the boundless love of God that pardoned me. Oh, the wonder of His grace." In 1986, Davies said that the inspiration for this song came through seeing the beauty of the Australian night sky, with the stars so clear and the thought coming from Psalm 8, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?"

God's boundless love for us carries us through life's highs and lows, creating a pathway none of us anticipated. But in this unexpected and unanticipated space, God has done and is doing great things. God is doing a new thing in us and isn't it wonderful to be assured that God is not finished with us yet, but He is doing new things in and through us? Isaiah 43:19 says, "See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." These words are for us today. God is with us. He loves us and He is taking us in a new direction, and if we keep our eyes focused on Him, He will lead us to where we need to go.

God has a plan and you and I are part of that plan, and although these unusual days of isolation create tension for us in so many ways, we know that God's plan is greater than we could ever dream or imagine, and that's exciting. God is doing a new thing and we are part of the plan. Philippians 1:6 says, "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion of the day of Jesus Christ." The God of creation, the God who loves us and desires to be in relationship with us, is making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland for us. We simply need to respond and follow. May God bless you.