Stephen Hawkings’ final message to humanity

after his memorial, June 15, 2018

Westminster Abbey

I am very aware of the preciousness of time. Seize the moment. Act now.

I have spent my life traveling across the universe in my mind. Through theoretical physics I have sought to answer some of the great questions but there are other challenges, other big questions which must be answered, and these will also need a new generation who are interested, engaged with an understanding of science.

How will we feed an ever-growing population provide clean water, generate renewable energy, prevent and cure disease and slow down climate change? I hope that science and technology will provide the answers to these questions, but it will take people, human beings with knowledge and understanding to implement the solution. One of the great revelations of the space age has been a perspective that it has given humanity on ourselves.

When we see the Earth from space we see ourselves as a whole; we see unity and not the division. It is such a simple image, with a compelling message: one planet, one human race.

We are here together, and we need to live together with tolerance and respect. We must become global citizens.

I have been enormously privileged through my work to contribute to our understanding of the universe. But it would be an empty universe indeed, if it were not for the people I love and who love me. We are all time travelers journeying into the future. But let us make that future a place we want to visit. Be brave, be determined, overcome the odds.

It can be done. It can be done.