



ENTER God's presence

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD watches over you –
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Jesus; Yahweh our God, guard and protect me as I come to you in devotion and go out into the world as your representative and the servant of the Gospel in my community. This is my calling and your good and gracious will for a full and fulfilled life. Amen.



SHARE life together

Luther's explanation for the 3rd Article of the creed (next part):

I believe that on my own I can never come to Jesus Christ my Lord, or believe in him, no matter how hard I try.

But the Holy Spirit has called me to Jesus by the Good News about him.

The Spirit has led me to know and trust Jesus, made me holy, and kept me in the Christian faith.

1. *Where have you seen God's power at work in your life this last week?*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *How does the Holy Spirit work to keep us in the Christian Faith? Our Family and friends?*
4. *How may the Spirit work through you to bring and keep others in the faith?*

Week beginning:
Sunday 7th October 2021

Worship series:
ANCIENT CREED: LIVING FAITH
I believe in God who is Here Now
(#5 in series)



VERSE for the week

The LORD will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

Psalm 121:7,8



REMEMBER this week

**God for us.
God with us.
God in us.
You will never be
alone in this world -
ever.
That's Jesus promise.**

Adrift, abandoned, untethered. Excluded. On the fringe. Not heard. Alone. Left to find your own way. Do any of those words resonate with your spirit today? It's the sign of an orphan spirit. "I have no-one". "I wish I could just talk to mum right now" "What I would do to have Dad's wisdom for this decision." "I still have my parents, but why do I feel I'm on my own?" There are seasons in life when changes, tragedies, or circumstances leave us asking orphan questions. There are moments when the struggles of simply living in this life are so overwhelming and we feel so alone. But that is not the truth or the reality of life in Jesus. When we confess, "I believe in the Holy Spirit", we are speaking the promise of God into being, that we have a God who is here now...with us...for us...always. We'll experience how the Holy Spirit protects and keeps us in the presence of Christ every day as we explore "I believe in God who is here now."



LISTEN attentively

Read John 14:15-21

5. *What do you hear this scripture saying to you right now?*
6. *What do Jesus' words say about him?*
7. *Discuss verses 19 & 20*
 - a. *Explain verse 19 in plain, concrete terms to one another.*
 - b. *When we hear the word 'commands' we often think of law and how the law condemns us in our sin. Since we have now been liberated from bondage to sin, how could you explain 'commands' here, in light of the Gospel? Do you expect joy and fulfilment from these commands?*



GROW deeper

Read Psalm 121 again

God, 'watching over us' or 'guarding us' is a picture of the guards on the eastern wall of Jerusalem watching the trade route from east to west as it approaches the city. It is along this road that traders bring wealth and prosperity to Israel, but it is also the road that invasion forces most often approached the walled city to make war.

8. *How do these two images fit with Psalm 12*
9. *How do these two images fit with your understanding of God our Father, Jesus our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit our comforter, travelling companion and coach?*



LIVE purposefully

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favour that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace.

Martin Luther

10. How will you respond to the message this week? What pattern can you begin to establish as a disciple of Jesus? How can you develop the Gospel impact of God's commands in a way that, may be challenging, but rewarding?

i) I will

ii) I will

iii) I will



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for his promise to be alive in us and active through us.
- Invite Jesus, once more, to restore you according to his original plans and fill you again with his Holy Spirit and His power to do the work he has called you to do.
- Intercede for all those who put their own health and safety on the line, our teachers, healthcare workers, police officers, emergency service workers and defence force personnel.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones in any circumstance. Ask that they would receive comfort and a deep knowledge of God's grace as he sits with them, sharing in their grief.
- Check the prayer list in LifeWay News and pray accordingly.
- Thank God for all the gifts he has given you to share and to minister to others with love.
- Ask God to reveal the people of peace in our community that he wants us to go out to.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.

(This has become known as the Luke 10:2 prayer)

REMEMBER:

**God for us. God with us. God in us.
You will never be alone in this world - ever.
That's Jesus promise.**



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], You are never alone for the Spirit of Christ lives in you. Amen.