

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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**Readings**      Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 ([JB Philips translation](#))  
                        Psalm 27 (Psalms for a quantum world)

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God is the source of all being,  
our light in the darkness,  
an ever-present companion in life.  
In God we need have no fear.

We are always in God for God is always with us,  
around us and within us,  
we cannot exist outside God.  
When we recognise God in our lives,  
we see the beauty of the world all around  
and treasure the beauty of relationships.  
In God is eternal life  
and we need not fear death,  
we are held in love and can feel secure.  
When we recognise this,  
we are strengthened in the face of opposition,  
and we can greet our enemy with confidence and love,  
and so we offer God our praise,  
in song, and through our words and actions.

Praise God, eternal and complete,  
the source of all being,  
the source and presence of love.

Heather Whyte 2020

### **Reflection**

Trusting in God changes us.

Jesus is our model. He encounters many situations where we might expect a man to show fear and yet more often than not, he stands firm in his belief, a belief in eternal life, which allows him to push fear aside and show love. In Luke 13:31-35 he is warned to leave where he is for Herod is plotting against him and yet he says no I have work to do here and I will complete, then I will travel to Jerusalem where prophets are killed.

There are special moments in our lives that can bring a clarity of mind, a second when we see things clearly, understand things infinitely and know God in the totality of being. Maybe you have had such a moment, maybe that was what Paul experienced on the road to Damascus. Maybe you have forgotten the moment for that can happen, the world moves on and experience overwhelms, and we forget, but deep down inside the seed remains, a glow in the dark, a tiny candle flame flickering which stays alight, and, in that place, we can revisit the moment.

Jacob had a moment, Jacob the trickster, Jacob who ran away and then in the middle of nowhere, totally alone for the first time in his life, he rests his head on a stone and experiences a dream like no other dream. It was a patch of ground like any other, nothing special and yet after that dream it was forever changed in Jacob's mind. He had seen God and he knew. Perhaps you have suddenly seen somewhere in a totally new light because of something you experienced there.

Moses stumbled across a holy place. He was running away as well, although he had not entirely left all he knew. He had taken a job as shepherd to his father-in-law's flock. Out with the sheep one

day, possibly pondering his misfortunes, his mind elsewhere, he stood, sandals on his feet in that place which was to become holy for him. A bush breaks into flames, startling him, spontaneous combustion except it did not combust it simply blazed. Moses was shocked out of his reverie, his eyes were opened, and his mind cleared, and in that moment he knew. When the unexpected happens, it can be a moment of knowing the presence of God, a touch, a sensation. The surprise of it shaking us out of our complacency and the place takes on new meaning. It hasn't changed, and others can discern no difference but for us there is anew significance, it has become a place of knowing.

Peter, James and John had no idea when they set off that morning that their trip to the mountaintop with Jesus would offer new insight. They had probably visited it many times and yet on that day they were to share an experience that would eventually change their lives. They did not speak of the experience after, and to all intents and purposes they forgot it, at least if their actions and their questions later were anything to go by, especially in the garden of Gethsemane. But, when the time was right perhaps that distant memory brought them the confidence to know for themselves the presence of God around and within them. Moments such as these give us the confidence to trust in God, to believe in God.

It is easy to be fearful at the moment, world events scare us and yet many of us have been here before. We have to believe in the inherent goodness of creation. We have to believe in the oneness that underpins all life and the knowledge that God is, and we are, and nothing can separate us. We know from history and archaeology that catastrophic events have happened before on the earth and whilst life has changed it has continued. Love does overcome fear. We can feel powerless and yet we have the ultimate antidote.

[The cosmic Dancer](#) – John Roedel

When we trust in God, when we follow the way of Jesus we can change the world. We can lay our heads down in the most inhospitable place and dream ourselves to the solution. We can wander through life, barely noticing our surroundings and be startled into awareness by something that simply should not be. We can walk to the top of a mountain and witness a mystery beyond comprehension, enfolded completely by the light that is God. We can love in the face of fear and be the moment of inspiration for others, and we can pray. We can unite our minds and souls and cry out in and for love and change the world. Amen

#### **Suggested hymns**

Guide me O thou great Jehovah

All my hope on God is founded

Make me a channel of your peace

Let us spread the pollen of peace throughout the land

#### **Suggested Story**

'The Ladder' which is included in *Speaking of God* by Trevor Dennis