



# **Sing a New Song: Praying the Psalms**

**Homer United Methodist Church**

A Song of Ascents (Psalm 121)

September 26, 2021

## **Centering**

### **Opening Prayer (Psalm 121)**

Prayer response: **I lift up my eyes.**

### **Opening Song**

*This Is the Day*

Frank and Hanson family with Ola Mullikin

CCLI Song #32754

Words & Music by Les Garrett, 1967

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This is the day (this is the day)  
that the Lord has made (that the Lord has made)  
let us rejoice (let us rejoice)  
and be glad in it (and be glad in it)

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day (this is the day)  
that the Lord has made.

### **Prayer for Illumination<sup>1</sup> (Psalm 19)**

Emma Bowman

Incline your hearts to the wisdom of God; seek integrity and understanding. The testimonies of God are wonderful; God's law gives light to all who hear it. If you accept God's words and store up his commands within you, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will find the knowledge of God, for the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth comes truth and understanding. Amen.

### **Scripture**

Psalm 121

Emma Bowman

A Song of Ascents

I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

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<sup>1</sup> posted on Rev. Richard Fairchild's Kir-shalom website. <http://www.rockies.net/>

who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
    he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper;  
    the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
    he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
    your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of Preparation**

Words: Martin J. Nystrom

Music Martin J. Nystrom

CCLI Song #1431

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**As the Deer (Psalm 42)**

Ola Mullikin

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength,  
my shield;  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

**Sermon**

**A Song of Ascents (Psalm 121)**

Tom Early

**Song of Response**

*Let All Things Now Living*

Frank and Hanson family with Ola Mullikin

Words: Katherine K Davis

Music: Public Domain

CCLI Song #4445649

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Let all thing now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the Creator  
triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who guides us and leads  
to the end of our days.  
God's banners fly o'er us;

God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth  
in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces,  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean  
proclaim the Divine.  
We, too, should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration  
a song let us raise,  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
To God in the highest  
hosanna and praise!

**Prayers of the People<sup>2</sup>** (Psalm 121)

A Prayer of Trust

Prayer response: **Bless us and keep us.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

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Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/Donate.html>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from [http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w\\_resources/lent2a\\_2011.htm](http://www.thetimelesspsalms.net/w_resources/lent2a_2011.htm)

### **Benediction<sup>3</sup>**

Our help comes from God, the creator of heaven and earth, who will not let us stumble or fall, who watches over us day and night. So go in peace and confidence, knowing that you do not go alone because your guide and keeper is with you always. Amen.

### **Closing Song**

### **Awesome God**

Frank and Hanson family with Ola Mullikin

Words & Music: Rich Mullins

CCLI song #41099

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Our God is an awesome God!  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom pow'r and love,  
Our God is an awesome God!

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/09/benediction-psalm-121-2-3.html>