**OFFERING PRAYER**

Psalm 121

**A song of ascents.**

**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 forevermore.

We come to this moment in our meeting together where we have the opportunity to stop to consider all that God has done for each of us throughout the past week. Have you needed to seek help from the Lord this week? The Lord is here, He is your help. He watches over you no matter what, your comings and your goings. He doesn’t slumber. He knows what help we need but it is good for us to bring those needs to Him.

Because The Lord knows what we need, He has provided everything that we have, everything that we need. We give thanks to God for all His goodness.

This is the time to bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord. What is a tithe, you may ask and why do we bring them to God. Surely He doesn’t really need anything from us. A tithe is a tenth of our income which we set aside to bring to God. It is for us that God asks this of us. When we set aside a tenth of our income it is sacrificial. It is sacrificial because we can often be tempted to keep it and use it for ourselves. It is important for us to remember that everything we have comes from God and through giving a tithe we are saying thankyou to God for all His provision. It means we are putting God first.

When we put God first through our tithes, we say to the Lord, I surrender all to you. I give you my first and my best because you deserve nothing less. Lord, I take this opportunity to show you that I trust you. I trust that you will do what you have said you will do, that You are my provider. Not my employer, not the government, not The Salvation Army, but You. If everything were to disappear, You would still be here. I trust that you know better than I do. I trust that no matter what happens in my life, you are there. Each week I have the opportunity to bring to you my tithe as a sign of my thankfulness to You.

Lord, thank you that we can do this. Thank you that you bless us when we put our trust in You. Thank you that we can be a blessing to Your children who have very likely in some way, at some time, been used by You to provide what we need. Lord, we ask that you Bless what is given today.

We “Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop.” 2 Cor 9:6. As the seed has been sown, may we be a lavish blessing to others through this offering. Lord I know that you will bless those who give to You today. I know you will bless those who receive support through our giving and may they know that it is through our love and faith in You they will receive what they need. I pray God will bless you each lavishly.

Amen.