



Call to worship Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you-the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 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 forevermore.

Hymn STF141 – Abide with me Watch on YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7FmELYpS9I&t=2s>

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows
flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847 Music: W.H. Monk, 1823-1889

The Lord's Prayer : *Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever Amen*

Hymn STF248 – I heard the voice of Jesus say Watch on YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKP3fdKIXOQ>

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay
down your head upon my
breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, weary,
worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and
live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank of
that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my
soul revived, and now I live in
Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I
am this dark world's Light;"
Look unto Me, your morn shall
rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in
Him my star, my sun;
ad in that Light of life I'll walk til
traveling days are done.
Til traveling days are done.

Bible Reading : John 9:1-41

Reflection on the title "From Darkness to Light "

The blind man was born blind and as a result of that blindness he was a beggar. A condition of Darkness and suffering which was unbearable.

Jesus saw him, went to him ,and healed him. Everything started with Christ. He is the source of our salvation. He knows more about our conditions than ourselves. Let us learn to wait for his coming.

Why suffering and Darkness to humanity?

1The falling of Adam and Eve brought suffering and Darkness into the world which was perfect and good.

2 The original sin caused by Adam and Eve caused suffering and Darkness. For the wages of sin death. Romans 5:12

3 The scripture from John is reminding us today that suffering is not always a result of man's sin. There are so natural causes of suffering as well and world systems.

4The Bible shows us right from the book of Genesis that suffering and Darkness when Adam fell was ordained for the purpose of demonstrating the glory of God, to display the authority and works of God through the history of mankind and finally the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We may be marginalized, excluded ,rejected and persecuted. It will come to pass but the plan and purpose of God will prevail.

We are also invited to participate in God's missional work of redemption as we suffer with Christ and humanity and God's creation for a greater purpose.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. All who believed in him were given power to become the children of God. Hence the blind man' s story is about displaying the power of God over every situation that suffering and Darkness will not take control of the kingdom of God and his children. Amen.

Hymn STF556 Just as I am. Watch on YouTube : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rmCN-w__Gk&t=1s

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting's and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Blessing : Psalm 23 - *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*