Friday 1st May

Psalm 57:1, 9-11

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed...I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

The Psalms are a rich seam of gold for us to mine in times of crisis. They describe every situation and emotion that we can imagine, and perhaps a few that we can’t! And somehow as we travel through this season of unknowns and fearful possibilities, the words of the Psalms have a special resonance with our experience. This Psalm begins with a cry for mercy and help. As I sat on our bench this morning, the sun still low in the sky, I was watching the shadows created by the trees and pondering what it means to be overshadowed by God, to take refuge in the shadow ow his wings. That is a place of protection, security, hiding ourselves in him. It is a place of drawing near to his heart. The end of the psalm is a song of rejoicing in the great love and faithfulness of God! And also a prayer that the glory of God would cover the earth. As you read this today, you may be in the place of ‘Help God!’ Or you may be wanting to experience the Lord’s covering. Or you may be praising Him for his goodness, or praying that the whole earth will see His glory! You may be in all of those places at once! That is one of the markers of this season - the variety and complexity of our emotions we can experience in any one day. That’s OK - bring them to the Lord honestly. You don’t have to have it all sorted. Allow him to meet you where you are and to minister His transforming love to you today.

*Father, we thank you for your tenderness towards us. We thank you that we never have to pretend with you and that you welcome us, love us an accept us. Thank you that you listen to us and understand.*

*We lift our broken world to you today. We pray for an end to the Coronavirus and thank you for all those are working hard for solutions. Please bless them with heavenly insight. We thank you for those that are taking care of the sick, and ask that you would protect and sustain them. We ask for Godly wisdom for our leaders as they make decisions about the days and weeks ahead. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. Amen*

