**Thursday 14th May**

Psalm 139: 7 – 12

Where can I go from your Spirit?  
    Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
    if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
    if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
    your right hand will hold me fast.  
If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me  
    and the light become night around me,”  
even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
    the night will shine like the day,  
    for darkness is as light to you.

Today I want to remind you that the Lord is with you – wherever you go (or don’t go at the moment)! When this Psalm was written, the known world was much smaller, and there was a huge amount of mystery around what lay on the far side of the sea. The writer is thinking of the furthest reaches of the earth – ‘the final frontiers’ if you like! He is trying to express the limits of the universe, and also to convey the fearfulness of those unknown places. There is no-where you can go that the Spirit of God isn’t there to find you. At present we are not able to travel far and wide, but the truth remains that in the four walls of your home, God is present. However, many of us have gone to fearful places in the past few weeks. In those places too, God is present. And the good news of the verse 12 is that he can bring transformation to those places! He is able to bring light out of darkness, peace out of fear, hope out of despair. If we are running away from the light, He is still there – and when we allow Him in he brings forgiveness and freedom.

This song will get you dancing! (In our house, we get the air guitars out!!) <https://youtu.be/YihKbG8-X3U>

*Lord, thank you that you are always with me! I praise you today for your matchless ability to turn darkness to light, to transform every situation with your presence and your love. I pray today that you would increase my awareness of your presence and that I will be a place where you always feel welcome. I lift to you today the circumstances of my life, my family, my community and the wider world and pray that I will see your light coming in to every dark place. In Jesus name. Amen*

