



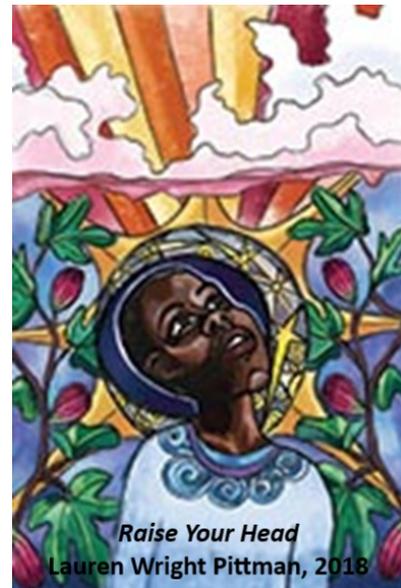
Starry Night, 1889, Vincent van Gogh, 1853-1890.

Greetings!

Please read [Psalm 27](#)

This Psalm has meant so much to me in my life. Its hopeful tones of God's presence in the midst of the difficulties of life would be meaningful to anyone, but especially Israel. Captivity, invasion, temple destruction and desecration, separation from Yahweh, it's all there. A real story – about real people in a relationship filled with joy and heartache.

Entering into this week of Lent, we find so much going on in the international and national scene. War, trauma inflicted and trauma received, weather devastation and yet another fatal school shooting.



Please re-read

- [Verses 1-4](#): What is a word or phrase that jumps off the page for you?
- [Verses 5-8](#): When have you been most aware of the shelter and the estrangement from God?
- [Verses 9-10](#): Does abandonment become your “go-to narrative” when things don’t go your way? Or perhaps you put the blame on someone else?
- [Verses 11-14](#): This Psalm turns at the end from abandonment – belief – how is it like your life?

As you answer these questions place yourself in the role of others

- How would this Psalm be prayed in Exile?
- How would this Psalm be prayed in times of plenty?

- How was this Psalm meaningful to Jesus on the road to Jerusalem?
- Do you ever wonder if the Disciples prayed this Psalm at any point of their ministry? What if they did, how would they feel?

Fortunately, as all texts are gifts, and I trust this is a gift to you, who is someone you want to send this Psalm to as a spiritual gift? You may not know them personally, but perhaps someone out there is needing this very word to get through the next 24 hours. Maybe you should send it, you never know what impact you can have on another life.

I am sending a copy of Psalm 27 to leaders in the Ukraine.

Prayer

Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these forty days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Todd D. Anderson, West Ohio Superintendent
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