

Assurance of God's Protection



We live in rapidly changing and scary times. But even before the arrival of the Covid-19 Coronavirus, our world has felt increasingly unstable and unfair with growing divisions and threats to wellbeing and quality of life for many people across the world, particularly the poor and vulnerable. In addition, there has been a recognition of the growing urgency of caring properly for our natural world before it is too late.

And what a beautiful world we have here in Scotland. This photograph above, taken recently on a wintry March day, is of the ridge leading up to 'An Casteal', one of the imposing mountains near Crianlarich.

And this view makes me think of Psalm 121 in which the psalmist looks longingly to the hills for help and receives clear reassurance that a faithful, loving God will not let us down and will watch over us and protect us, no matter what.

Psalm 121: Assurance of God's Protection

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- ² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

In these turbulent days let us remember and take courage from God's power and steadfastness as we journey through Lent towards Easter and experience anew the joy of Christ's resurrection. This prayer, written by Kathy Galloway, seems a fitting way to finish.

New Ways

God of our lives
you are always calling us
to follow you into the future,
inviting us to new ventures, new challenges,
new ways to care,
new ways to touch the hearts of all.
When we become fearful of the unknown, give us courage.
When we worry that we are not up to the task,
remind us that you would not call us
if you did not believe us.

When we get tired,
or feel disappointed with the way things are going,
remind us that you can bring change and hope
out of the most difficult situations.

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