

SERMON NOTES Sunday 19 October

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Psalm 121 and Genesis 32.22-31

Introduction

- Psalm of Ascents: used by Jews to worship God as approach Temple
- Relevant for pilgrimage through life as well as journey up to Jerusalem

Lord, the maker of heaven and earth

- God we can look to for help is all-powerful and all-present
- How big is our God is key question, not how big is the challenge(s) we face?

Lord neither slumbers nor sleeps

- God is ever watchful and cares for us; he is our Father who is in heaven
- Psalm is a parable for all our life: his tireless care will see us safely through this life if we recognise him as our keeper

Do we look to God

- Is prayer our first port of call or last resort?
- Genesis 32: Jacob wouldn't let go until God blessed him

Conclusion

- Psalm reminds us of truths which can build our confidence and deepen our trust in God
- Readings challenge us to recognise God as our Lord and hold on to him throughout our lives

Some questions to discuss

1. Which is your favourite Psalm? Why?
2. Read Psalm 121. What do you notice?
3. Why might it be helpful to remember who God is?
4. Can you think of times when you have experienced God's care and watchfulness over you? How might those experiences help you in times of trouble?
5. How might you make prayer more frequently your first port of call rather than last?
6. Read Genesis 32.22-31. Jacob's faith in God makes him hold on until he is blessed. What might this mean for you?
7. What might help you to build your confidence and deepen your trust in God?
8. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore. (Psalm 121.8)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his care of you and pray for his help so you may face the joys and challenges of the journey ahead?

Revd Rebecca Fardell