

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
***THE TRUE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE***



*PSALM 121:1-8 NLT // JOHN 3:1-18 NLT*

**MONDAY 3/6/23**

PSALM 121:1-8 // 1 I look up to the mountains does my help come from there? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

JOHN 3:1-18 // 1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." 3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again,[a] you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

**REFLECTION** Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler in Israel. There was a seed of piety in Nicodemus and it showed. He had heard about Jesus being a prophet of God so one night he visited him. He wanted a more intimate knowledge of Him. Nicodemus admits Christ has been sent by God. For a time now, Jesus has been traveling, demonstrating His Divine power. No one dared to deny that God is with him. These miracles do two things. First, they cause people, like Nicodemus, to have their minds opened towards true faith in Jesus. Today, most people do not see a miracle and come to faith in Christ. What conventionally happens is we listen to God's Word being read and faith in Jesus begins to take root in our hearts. As we read, the Holy Spirit confirms in our minds that Jesus Christ is God's Son. Coming alive in faith to Jesus is the act of being born again by God's Spirit.

**PRAYER** I look up to heaven from where my help comes. It comes from you my God, who has reached out to guide me and help me obtain true faith in your Son my Lord and Savior. Praise your holy name. In Jesus name, Amen.

**TUESDAY 3/7/23**

PSALM 121:1-8 // He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. 4 Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.

JOHN 3:1-18 // 1 What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" 5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.[a] 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.[b] 7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

**REFLECTION** Jesus states, the Spirit and water are both elements need to gain eternal life. We often misunderstand what it means to be baptized with His Spirit. All of us have been born out of the water of a mother. We are truly flesh. So, when Christ's comes for us, He offers us a holy rebirth. In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist says "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the "Holy Spirit and fire." This baptism of the Spirit is a defining moment for Christians. When we accept we are sinners and bow and confess Christ is our redeemer. We have regained our true life in God and are granted eternal life. The Bible clearly teaches that the kingdom of God is closed to the unconfessed sinner. There is no other way to enter into the eternal kingdom unless a person enters the gate of Christ who flings it open for us.

## **TUESDAY 3/7/23 CONTINUED**

**PRAYER** Lord Jesus thank you for guiding my life as I walk among those who live in darkness. Hold me tight so I may not stumble into traps set by evil. Please continue to watches over me in my raising up and in my slumber. In Jesus name, Amen.

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## **WEDNESDAY 3/8/23**

PSALM 121:1-8 // 5 The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

JOHN 3:1-18 // 8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."9 "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.10 Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? 11 I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony.

**REFLECTION** Jesus is teaching us the movement of the Holy Spirit comes and goes like wind. As it blows, it renews a person's heart and mind. Let's be encouraged and grateful by this new and exciting news. We ought to cherish the power of God's love. Jesus gives us the chance to live a heavenly life. Christ sees us, like He saw Nicodemus, spending our time being proud and puffed up about our religious activities. Jesus begins to reprove him sharply. Such a person, He says, will never make any progress towards heaven until the wicked self confidence is removed. For God doesn't send ministers to prattle about senseless things to create confusion and doubt in life. Certainly not! The message of Jesus Christ is held dear in our hearts so we too may offer the news about eternal life

**PRAYER** Lord Jesus please watch over my life and my loved ones lives. Give me courage and a desire to stand beside you to offer others the news of eternal life. In Jesus name, Amen.

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## **THURSDAY 3/9/23**

PSALM 121:1-8 // 6 The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.

JOHN 3:1-18 // 12 But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

**REFLECTION** Christ declares that if you do not believe Him about earthly things, you cannot make progress in the doctrine of the Gospel. Jesus again exhorts Nicodemus in verse 13, not to trust in himself and his own wisdom, because no one by his own will can enter into heaven. It is only under the guidance of the Son of God who anoints us with His Spirit do we begin to understand the doctrine of the Gospel. For us to go to heaven means "to have a pure knowledge of the mysteries of God, and the light of spiritual understanding." Adam's sin shut us out from the heavenly realm of God. To remedy this tragedy, God ordained His Son to overshadow the darkness of sin.

**PRAYER** Heavenly Father, forgive me of my words, actions, and deeds that have casue emotional, and spiritual pain to others. In Jesus name, Amen.



## FRIDAY 3/10/23

PSALM 121:1-8 // 7 The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.

JOHN 3:1-18 // 16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**REFLECTION** Christ opens the flood gates for the love of God to be poured out into the world. Unfortunately our depraved minds and corrupted hearts cannot find God. The truth is, God first comes to us. (Remember the story of God in the garden, in Genesis 3.) Christ comes to us in all sorts of life situations. It is certain we will never find peace, nor true love, or even real joy and laughter until we arrive at the unmerited love of God. The whole matter of our salvation must not be sought any where else than in Christ Jesus. Let us learn to accept God's love for us. Faith in Christ brings us a new and exciting new life now. Our Father's grace is readily offered to us. Ephesians 1:5 says, "He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will."

**PRAYER** Heavenly Father praise you for you have come to me and you have rescued me from death and damnation. Blessed are you who have given me new life now and eternal life in the future. In Jesus name, Amen.

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## SATURDAY 3/11/23

PSALM 121:1-8 // 8 The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

JOHN 3:1-18 // 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

**REFLECTION** It was not in vain that God sent his own Son to us. He didn't come to judge the world but give us new life. Those who accept and follow the Son of God obtain salvation. Why would any person in a right state of mind hesitate to escape death? It is the very purpose of God to send Christ in order to give us hope, faith and true love. Christ is often portrayed as one who has come to destroy us and expose us. Yes, He has come to destroy. He has come to dismantle Satans power over us. He has come to set us free from being a slaves to sin. God, out of His boundless goodness, chose to extend His aid for saving the lost. Whenever our sins press us — whenever Satan would drive us to despair — we ought to hold out this shield of God's grace. John 9:39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

**PRAYER** O' Lord God, praise your name for keeping watch over me as I live my life. Praise you for turning my life around. In Jesus name, Amen.



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