

Scripture: Psalm 27 (verse 1: *"The LORD is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear?"*)

Message: "Lead Me, Lord; I Trust in You"

July 16, 2017; Bethel CRC, Brockville, ON

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It was a dark and stormy night;
The clouds rolled through the sky.
Young minds were filled with fright,
but they didn't really know why.
It's just the dark and rolling clouds
seemed close and falling in.
The wind was howling really loud
And rattling everythin'.

When lightning flashed and thunder banged
The whole house seemed to shake.
From Sunday School a song I sang,
But no difference did it make.
The darkness crowded all around,
From high in the sky down to the ground.
There was no way out, no end to the storm,
Oh, how I wished that Mom was home.

Were you ever scared, a bit afraid?
Did you worry about getting a failing grade?
Or was it fear of facing school
And having to live by all the rules?
Were you afraid of the playground bully
Who might pick on you? but didn't, thankfully.
Or fear of a teacher who, you heard, was so strict
Did she really carry around such a big stick?
Or were you afraid of showing Mom and Dad
A report card that said your behaviour was bad?

You've had your fears, at home, at school;
Sometimes you felt like quite a fool.
You worried so much you got real sick,
But there was no need, you got over it real quick.
You felt quite silly for all your fear;
Until the next time when the reason seemed clear.

You're not alone having fearful feelings
In young and in old it can send us reeling.
Ask your friends if they ever had a scare;
I could tell you my own, but not right here.

Fear is not really such a terrible thing,
As long as to the right end it does bring.
Fear can be healthy if it keeps us alert,
And leads us to find the right kind of support.
Fear lets us know that there's danger around;
No better warning signal could ever be found.

But fear must not rule us,
It must not take control,
Because then we become helpless
And we're certain to fall.
Fear can prevent us from trying new things,
Or taking new steps to see what life brings.

There once was a farmer, so the story is told,
Who lived in great fear and never was bold.
He never would harvest a crop from his field
Because he was fearful he'd get a poor yield.
He didn't plant beans for fear of no rain;
He didn't bale hay for fear of back pain;
For fear of some fungus he didn't plant wheat;
He didn't plant corn for fear of no heat.
He didn't do anything because he was too afraid,
Not a penny of profit from his farm has he made.

Fear is OK if you know what to do,
If you know where to turn to find help for you.
You must look beyond fear; see where there's hope;
And then you will surely be able to cope.

King David knew fear; he had enemies around;
King Saul had chased him like a clever bloodhound.
David speaks in this psalm about armies and war,
Of rejection and lies and oppressors and more.
But what did this do to David, the King?
Did he shudder in fear and not dare do a thing?
No, he turned to the Lord, the light of his life,
His way of salvation, through all of the strife.
Salvation is having a way to get free
From that which could harm and not let you flee.
Salvation means being delivered from foes,
Whether people who fight you or personal woes.
But often, to be saved, we need someone's aid,
Perhaps someone else who this journey has made.
We need someone stronger who knows what to do,
Who's willing and able to give help to you.

King David knew just where he had to go
When threatened by armies or some other foe.
He went to the Lord, the one who would save.
The Lord would help David; new courage he gave.
The Lord was a light in a world turned so dim,
By all the things David felt threatening him.
The Lord as the light gave hope, it gave joy;
For David would crush every enemy ploy.

The light of the Lord, the salvation he gives,
Is for all those who trust God and for him do live.
This is God's word to you, to remember each day,
when you are on SERVE out in Thunder Bay.
Or when you're at home, or at work or wherever,
The Lord is your light and is with you forever.

So what's in the future? What is it you see?
Does all the unknown make you weak at the knees?
You can go forward, expecting the worst.
If that is your action, you won't be the first.
But then you won't find much enjoyment at all.
You'll be so uptight, you might just want to bawl.

The future's not dark; it's not very grim.
The Lord is your light when you put trust in him.
This isn't just church talk for adults to trust
That comes from a Bible all covered with dust.
It's day to day living that God cares about
And he cares about you, you don't have to doubt.
God cares about friends and school and work,
And he never thinks that you're being a jerk.
You can talk to this God with your every concern
He'll be there to help you, at life's every turn.

How can you know that God cares for you?
Just look up to Jesus and what he did do.
Jesus came down from heaven to live on this earth
'Cause there's no money value to say what you're worth.
You're worth his own life which he gave on the cross
To pay for our sins, Jesus suffered that loss.
We call that salvation: God frees you from sin
And He helps you to live life through all thick and thin.

I've adapted a poem by Ruth Gibbs Zwall
"The Parable of Tomorrow" is what it is called.

I looked at the mountain. "It's too hard, Lord," I said;
"I cannot climb it, so I'll just stay in bed."
"Take My hand," He whispered;
"And I'll be your strength.
And together we'll travel the entire length."

I saw the road.
"It's too long, Lord," I said;
"so rough and long, I can't go ahead."
"Take My love," He answered;
"and I'll guard your feet.
I'll protect you from the sun's blazing heat."

I looked at the sky.
"The sun's gone," I said;
"the way is so dark, it's a way that I dread"
"Take the lantern of my Word," He whispered to me,
"that'll be light enough, so your pathway you'll see."

We climbed and the road was so narrow and steep,
But the way was bright, and I tried not to weep.
When thorns reached out,
'twas His hand they stabbed
Before they touched mine,
And I was not jabbed.

When my path grew quite rough
and I started to fumble,
His love kept my feet so that I did not stumble.
Then I grew very tired. "I cannot go on."
He answered, "Look up, for the night is now gone."

I looked; it was dawn. Green valleys around.
"I can go on alone now, for the way I have found."
Then I saw the marks.
"Lord, you are wounded. Your hands are bleeding.
Your feet are bruised because of help I was needing?"
He whispered, "I gladly did help you my child.
You need all my help for the way can be wild."

Then I fell at His feet.
"Lead me on, Lord," I cried.
"Alone I can't do it, I'd never have tried.
No road is too long, no valley too deep,
if you are with me, the way's not too steep."

Trust the Lord as your friend for every day,
Trust him to lead you, each step of the way.
Don't let fears grow bigger and take away your calm,
Just think of King David and the words of this psalm:

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart.
And know that the Lord will for sure do his part.
The Lord is your light, your salvation is he.
There's no one to fear, not your worst enemy.

Try some new steps, go in new directions
Just remember that God has all the instructions.
God walks with you daily; trust him as your light.
His salvation is yours to help overcome fright.
You do have to trust him, and follow his Word
And you will have blessings from your loving Lord.

Amen.