



Andrew Murray Pretoria
12th of July 2020
Liturgist:
Rev. Stefan Botha



† **Invocation and Greeting:**

God, the nations rage.
The earth shudders.
Storms, fires, and violence abound.
Disease and death reaps a heavy toll.
The people are in distress.

In the midst of turmoil,
in the midst of trouble and need,
in the midst of swirling forces
we look up.

So intent on the needs and crises before us,
we raise our downward gaze.
Shifting away from our worry and despair,
we adjust our focus.
Heavy-hearted, weighed down by the cares of this life,
we release our burdens.

We look up to the heavens,
beyond the sun, moon, and stars.
We look up toward the horizon,
to the coming dawn,
because You are our help.

Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness.
Do not let us be put to shame
because we trust in You.

We stand up and raise our heads;
for our redemption is drawing near.

Family of God, it is with joy that I greet you all in the Name of Good God.
I greet you in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† **Scripture Reading and Sermon: “Someday.” Ps. 27:13.**

Good morning to all. In my conversations with people during this time, I often hear people stating that they will do this or that after the pandemic, after the lockdown. This starts off sounding realistic and hopeful, until the tone of fatalism and wistfulness becomes more and more pronounced. It becomes another “*someday*” wish.

“*Someday, maybe, someday.*” We have all said it, but it’s not really a statement of hope. It’s more often a fatalistic resignation to the death of some kind of dream.

- “Someday I’ll get a decent job.”
- “Someday we’ll be able to afford the kind of house our family really needs.”
- “Someday I’ll get myself in shape.”
- “Someday I’ll finally find a good church.”
- “Someday I’ll find that special person to love.”
- “Someday we’ll get our finances in order.”
- “Someday I’ll go back to school.”
- “Someday I’ll quit saying ‘someday.’”

“Someday” is a way of communicating what we wish would happen, but deep down inside we don’t really think it will. We say it because it makes us momentarily feel better about the things in the here and now, that we have trouble accepting.

The reason our “somedays” are more fatalistic than hopeful, is that in our sane moments, we all know that we don’t have the power and control over our world that we would need to have, in order to guarantee the realization of our dreams.

We also know that we are harvesting the choices we have made that have led us to where we are. So, our “somedays” are more medicinal and therapeutic, than hopeful predictions of what surely will come. They are mental pills to get dissatisfied hearts through disappointing days.

The someday of Psalm 27 is very different. “*Yet I am confident I will see the Lord’s goodness while I am here in the land of the living.*” (Psalm 27:13)

This is a statement of confidence, that is both deeply encouraging and powerfully motivating. When David said that someday he would see “*the Lord’s goodness while I am here in the land of the living,*” he wasn’t caressing some future dream, in order to help himself accept present disappointment.

In fact, this statement isn’t a wish or a dream at all. It’s not really a hope for some future outcome. No, what David made here is a statement of “**identity**”. David was remembering who he is, and in remembering who he is, he was remembering what he has now and in the future.

Who was David? He was a child of the God of Israel. He was one of God’s chosen, the object of God’s love, the recipient of God’s promises. The God, who is his Father, is a God of immeasurable power, unfathomable wisdom, inconceivable sovereignty, untainted truth, and abounding grace.

David’s God isn’t only the ultimate definition of what is good; he also has the power and control to produce every good thing that he has promised his children.

He is in absolute control of history, of every location, circumstance, pandemic, individual, natural force, institution and relationship.

As Nebuchadnezzar said, after being humbled by this God, “*He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’*” (Daniel 4:35)

Trust in God isn’t a thin hope in some not very sure outcome. Hope in God is rather a present investment in a future guarantee. What God says will be done. What God has promised will come to pass.

His word is reliable because in his grace he wants to bless us, and in his power, he has the ability to do anything he has promised to do. When you live with his promises in view, you live with confidence, courage, and unshakable hope.

- You can then become free of anxiety and worry, even during a pandemic.
- You become free of vain attempts to manipulate people and situations in order to get what you want.
- You place yourself in the hands of a sovereign God of grace who knows exactly what you need, when you need it, how you need it, and where you will need it.

And because your Father is good, he will never turn a deaf ear to your cries, and he will never abandon you in your hour of need. No, you won't always understand what he is doing, and you will be tempted to think that he has gotten his timing wrong, but the more you entrust your life to him, the more you will experience his faithful grace again and again.

- Who holds your "**someday**"?
- Are you still attempting to change things that are beyond your power and out of your control?
- Have you simply given up and in your disappointment are you resigned to play mental dream games to keep yourself going?

Look up! Your Father controls it all, and he looks on you with grace and favour. It is never ever risky to place your past, present, and future in his hands. His someday isn't a "**someday**" at all; no, it's a "**will be**".

Take a moment to ask yourself honestly:

- Where do you tend to forget your identity as a child of God?
- Where in your life do anxiety and worry reveal that, in the press of life in this broken world, during this pandemic and lockdown, you tend to forget the "*goodness of God*," which you are guaranteed as his child?

† **Prayer**

Heavenly Father,
I am Your humble servant.
I come before You today in need of hope.

There are times when I feel helpless,
There are times when I feel weak.
I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future.
I need hope for a better life.
I need hope for love and kindness.

Some say that the sky is at its darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark.
I need Your light, Lord, in every way.
I pray to be filled with Your light from head to toe.
To bask in Your glory.
To know that all will be right in the world,
as You have planned, and as You want it to be.

Help me to walk in Your light,
and live my life in hopeful faith and glory.
In Your name, I pray, Amen.

† **Benediction (Amen)**

Whatever we face, we do not face it alone.
Wherever we go, we do not journey alone.
However we suffer, we do not bear it alone.
Whoever we are and wherever we go and however we journey,
we go in peace, in hope, and in faith
for we go with Christ, who always goes with us.

Go...

**(+) In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**