Tuesday 5th May

Psalm 68:4-6

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the LORD. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

I love the way that this Psalm paints a picture of Almighty, powerful God, riding on the clouds. And yet, he is not aloof, detached or insensitive. With our God, we are not pawns in some cosmic drama. In fact, the God of the universe is the one who is attentive to our cry, who draws near and who offers special protection to those in particular need and who is there for those that are in danger of being overlooked.He is the one who sees us. Like an eagle soaring through the clouds, spotting the tiniest movement below, so God sees us. He know our needs. He comes to our aid. I love the promise in verse 6 that ‘God sets the lonely in families’. It seems particularly relevant at this time when we are separated from family and friends and for many the sting of loneliness is heightened. Through Jesus we can be adopted into the family of God himself. We gain a new family which is global in reach - a family held together by the love of a perfect Father. And as he takes us by the hand and leads us into His family, he makes the orphans sons and daughters, leads us out of the slavery that is life without Him as our Father. No wonder we’re singing!

*Father, we thank you for your infinite love, and the generosity that you have shown us. We thank you that although you are so great, so powerful and mighty, you see us and you care for us. Thank you that we can know you through Jesus and become your sons and daughters. We pray for those that we know that don’t yet know how good it is to have you as a Father. Please draw them to yourself today, out of a sun-scorched land.*

*We ask you help and blessing for those that we know who are in pain, and for whom loneliness is a source of sorrow. May they know that you are there. We pray for those who have been recently bereaved, and who are struggling with their loss in a time of social distancing. Give them extra grace at this time, and comfort them with your love. In Jesus name. Amen*

