

HOLINESS AMIDST THE MOUNTAINS

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Responsorial Psalm

God is with us.

His foundation upon the holy mountains the Lord loves: The gates of Zion, more than any dwelling of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!

I tell of Egypt and Babylon among those that know the Lord; Of Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia: "This man was born there." And of Zion they shall say: "One and all were born in her; And he who has established her is the Most High Lord."

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled: "This man was born there." And all shall sing, in their festive dance: "My home is within you."

PSALM 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7

Reflection

This psalm is one for pondering holiness, God's love for the holy city of Jerusalem and the sacred mountains in and around this beloved place. Jerusalem is holy because of Divine dwelling within its borders.

This psalm also speaks of the invitation to the Gentiles for a relationship with God where all are included. All can be a part of this holy dwelling Jerusalem, and this invitation is given to us as well.

While many of us will never see or physically be present in Jerusalem in our lifetime, what we do have access to are the holy places, holy spaces, where we experience God's indwelling presence. Within this Psalm are found God's love and attention to each individual who He has created.

My prayer response to this psalm is captured below.

Holy Dwelling Place

O God who dwells among the mountains and valleys of creation, may we find you in spaces made holy by your presence. May we seek you in unexpected places and be open to your invitation for encounter wherever we find ourselves.

O God who dwells in the hearts of those who number among your disciples, may we be open and receptive to those encountering you for the first time. Let us be a welcoming presence that encourages others to find their way to you.

O God who dwells among us, may we make room for your holiness in the places and spaces of our lives. May the mountaintops within and around us echo the strains of invitation and inclusive love which resound and echo from generation to generation.



Beige buildings on high ground in Israel Photo by Haley Black

For Pondering

- How does Psalm 87 speak to you?
- How do you experience the words "my one is within you"?

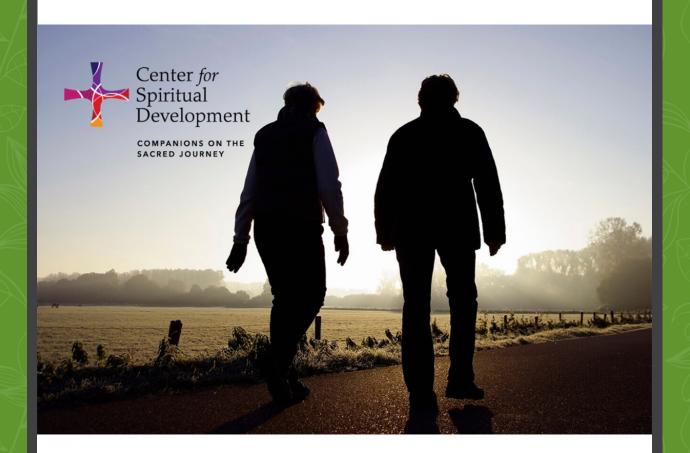
For Prayer

O God of infinite love,
may we be a loving presence in the lives of all we encounter today.

May we widen the space within us
where your love sustains and propels us
to seek holiness in our lives and the lives of others.

Amen.

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