**Sunday 22nd January 2023: Psalm 27: 1, 4-12**

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| ***1****The Lord is my light and my salvation—     whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—     of whom shall I be afraid?*  ***4****One thing I ask from the Lord,     this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord     all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord     and to seek him in his temple.* ***5****For in the day of trouble     he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent*  *and set me high upon a rock.* | ***6****Then my head will be exalted     above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;     I will sing and make music to the Lord.*  ***7****Hear my voice when I call, Lord;     be merciful to me and answer me.* ***8****My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”     Your face, Lord, I will seek.* ***9****Do not hide your face from me,     do not turn your servant away in anger;     you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me,     God my Saviour* |

**Notes**

*“Then … I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord” (v6).*  
These days of course we tend not to sacrifice animals. Nevertheless, giving to God, or indeed anyone, is still a sacrifice. If we have the attitude that we will only give from what we have left over, when all our other commitments have been met, then we are not really making a sacrifice, and not understanding the true spirit and joy of giving.  
  
But why? Why should we give? This Psalm is written by David. It expresses his confidence in God. It is not even so much looking back, to all the thinks God has done for him. More, it is looking forward. Verses 5 and 6 are in the future tense: “He will keep me safe, he will hide me in his shelter, my head will be exalted”. David’s sacrifice is not a thank you for what God has provided for him, but a response to his conviction that he is one of God’s people. “The Lord is my light and salvation, the stronghold of my life” (v1)  
  
Our giving to God should be a joyful celebration of who we are in God. Our giving should be accompanied by music and celebration. We see David’s attitude echoed by St Paul who writes in 2 Corinthians Chapter 9 vv 6-7: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Do we share David’s conviction that God is our light and salvation, and the stronghold of our life? If we do, our giving should likewise be joyous and generous. Yes, it will often involve sacrifice, may it means there’s something else we won’t be able to do. Let’s makes that sacrifice cheerfully and with music and celebration.

**End**