**SERMON NOTES TEMPLATE:**

**Date**: 17/3/24

**Preacher:** Ps Paul

**Sermon Title: “**Closer to God through His Great Hope”

**Bible Reading:** Ps 130

**Sermon Notes**

* To live and breathe is to suffer (v1a)
* But we never suffer alone (v1b-2b)
* For God will never abandon us (v3-4)
* He asks us to wait, watch and hope (v5-6)
* As we give God room to move (v7-8)

**Small Group Questions/Discussions**

The Psalmist acknowledges his suffering “Out of the depths” or as the Message bible says “the bottom has fallen out of my world” Why is such honesty important to our relationship with God? When it comes to suffering – asking “why” is not helpful. Do you agree? Frame more beneficial questions by using **What** and **How.**

As the writer continues he shares his response, He cries out to God. Prayer is a wonderful connection to God. As you reflect on your own experience of suffering, share your insights on prayer. Could you pray, how did you pray? Did prayer bring a sense of God’s presence straight away?

Suffering can produce feelings of isolation. Why is the psalmist highlighting the forgiveness of God? Why do we need this confidence? When you encounter suffering do you feel as If God has abandoned you? Why is it so essential to overcome this lie? If you have time- google Bible Project – Esther. May God’s intervention be an encouragement to you.

Waiting is mentioned in v5, watchman in v6. Why is waiting something positive we can do? What else do we see in v5 as a means of action we can pursue. Re v6 - some think those who watch were military guards, others think they were priests waiting for dawn - it doesn’t really matter – in both cases they waited for the morning with certain expectation that it would come. What is the message of hope found here for us.

In the midst of deep suffering, we continue to live. We either live in fear or in hope. What determines our mindset? What gives you the confidence to face your suffering? What does it mean to you, when consider suffering that we give God room to move? Share together how you can pray for each other - having faith enough to trust God to bring a positive conclusion.