



| Friday, December 21

Hope in His Presence

The Lord will keep you from all harm; he will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121:7-8

When I was a little girl in South Dakota we never missed going to Gramma & Grampa Ring's farm for Christmas. My mother had four sisters and two brothers, and my dad was an only child. He lost his mother when he was a freshman in college, so he loved being an adopted member of this large brood. Gramma Ring loved him like a son too, so of course there was never an argument when we all loaded up to go stay at the farm.

Christmas consisted of attending the candlelight service at the Lutheran church in town. When we got home, all the grandkids gathered around the piano and I would accompany everyone on Christmas songs. We ended the night reading the Bible and singing "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night."

Before going to bed, we'd gather at the kitchen table for Gram's homemade chocolate sauce and ice cream. After a few nights spent with everyone, we would load the car up and start our trek home. Gram and Gramp had a big picture window facing the road. Driving out of the driveway, we would look, and everyone would be standing in the window, waving goodbye. I can still see them, and it always made me so happy. I knew we were loved and, even though we'd drive off and could no longer see them, I felt as if they were with us. On the journey home, my Mom would have us all sing together and I'd look up at the moon and the stars and feel that God was looking down and protecting us as we traveled. I still do that today. I love to look up into the vast sky. I feel so small yet so protected by the Holy Spirit.

*Dear Lord, never let me forget that you keep watch over us in all we do. Help me trust that you are in "all my comings and goings."
Your love is great!*

- Karla Jensen