***Sermon for Sunday 17th January 2021***

***By Revd. George Roach***

(Begin with a time of silence)

Have you seen that poster or heard that saying…?

***“'Christ is the head of this house, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation”***

You can find it pottering around from time to time, it is an old Celtic Christian proverb, and If you have not noticed it by now you will have after this because what we have here in this saying is both the reassurance of a God that is lovingly watching us and the presence of a G-d that is with us even when we do not know it.

Like our Celtic proverb our readings made me rethink my relationship with Jesus in the light of his continuous presence both with myself and Nathaniel under the fig tree, a loving presence that is without condition of our own struggles and joys, thoughts, and feelings.

So, we begin by seeing that Jesus had found Philip and had him follow and then Philip found Nathaniel and stated that he had found Jesus.

Now Jesus immediately lays the seed to Nathaniel that he has been watching him over time as he described to him the fact that he saw him under the fig tree before Philip even called.

 This was enough to convince Nathaniel, that this man knows everything about him and therefore he simply cannot pretend to be something that he is not but what was the significance of the fig tree? Well, it was not uncommon then to read the Torah and to pray under a fig tree because the fig tree was seen as a source of life and a blessing to anyone who owned or had access to one. So, you can imagine Nathaniel’s feeling when Jesus identified to him that he was being watched under the fig tree and that Nathaniel certainly was not on his own. Nathaniel was clearly unaware of Jesus presence at that time so my questions to you are…

How often do you take time to sit in Jesus presence, or are you aware of Jesus presence during your own prayer time?

Jesus, whether we know it or like it is present with us always. He is the Silent guest at every meal and as our Psalm says in its title, he is the inescapable G-d who knows when we sit down, or when we rise up and he knew you before you were knit together in your mother’s womb.

Take time to get into the habit of asking for Jesus to be present in your day and take time to sit with him without distraction because just like Nat he is there watching and is waiting to call you into the day ahead.