



# Sing a New Song: Praying the Psalms

Homer United Methodist Church

Let's Be Honest (Psalm 139)

September 12, 2021

## Centering

Rev. Lisa Talbott

### Opening Prayer<sup>1</sup> (Psalm 139)

Prayer response:

You knit me together. **You search me and know me.**

### Opening Song

*Thy Word is a Lamp*

Jessica Ostrom and Mark Gronseth

Words: Amy Grant, 1984

Music: Michael W. Smith, 1984; arr. By Keith Phillips

CCLI Song #14301

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#### Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,  
think I've lost my way,  
still you're there right beside me,  
and nothing will I fear  
as long as you are near.  
Please be near me to the end.

#### Refrain

Now I will not forget your love  
for me and yet  
my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me  
to your side,  
and I will love you to the end.

#### Refrain

### Prayer for Illumination<sup>2</sup> (Psalm 19)

Bill Bechtol

Incline your hearts to the wisdom of God; seek integrity and understanding. The testimonies of God are wonderful; God's law gives light to all who hear it. If you accept God's words and store up his commands within you, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will find the knowledge of God, for the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth comes truth and understanding. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *All Things New*, written by Rev. Susan A. Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman. Posted on the United Church of Christ website. <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> posted on Rev. Richard Fairchild's Kir-shalom website. <http://www.rockies.net/>

**Scripture****Psalm 139**

Bill Bechtol

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. <sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. <sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. <sup>19</sup>O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me— <sup>20</sup>those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil! <sup>21</sup>Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? <sup>22</sup>I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. <sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. <sup>24</sup>See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of Preparation**

Words: Martin J. Nystrom

Music Martin J. Nystrom

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**As the Deer (Psalm 42)**

Ola Mullikin

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength,  
my shield;  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

**Sermon****Let's Be Honest (Psalm 139)**

Peggy Ostrom

**Song of Response** *Ride the Morning Winds* Jessica Ostrom and Mark Gronseth  
Words: Grace Hawthorne

A frightening place, this world of ours;  
The frantic pace of changing powers,  
Where no one plays familiar roles.  
But in these days one promise holds:

I can ride the morning winds and You are there.  
I can sail the widest seas and You are there.  
I can find the darkest night and You are there.  
Oh, Lord, I can never be lost from you.

Decisions rise that must be made;  
I compromise so debts are paid,  
It's all too much, I couldn't cope;  
But with Your touch I find new hope.

I can ride the morning winds and You are there.  
I can sail the widest seas and You are there.  
I can find the darkest night and You are there.  
Oh, Lord, I can never be lost from you.

Please search me now and know my heart;  
Then show me how to do my part,  
To walk the way You'd have me go.  
And if I stray Lord, still I know

I can ride the morning winds and You are there.  
I can sail the widest seas and You are there.  
I can find the darkest night and You are there.  
Oh, Lord, I can never be lost from you.

**Prayers of the People<sup>3</sup>** Offering Ourselves and Our World into God's Care  
Prayer response:  
**God who brings life from death, hear us.**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name.**  
**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from the **United Church of Christ** website.

**on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God**

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### **Closing Prayer<sup>4</sup> (Psalm 139) and Benediction**

**Closing Song**      *Great is the Lord*      Jessica Ostrom and Mark Gronseth  
Words: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith,  
Music: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith  
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#### *Refrain*

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;  
by his power we trust in his love.  
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;  
by his mercy he proves he is love.

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory!  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice,  
now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord!  
Great is the Lord!

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!  
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.  
Great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice,  
I lift up my voice: Great are you, Lord!  
Great are you, Lord!

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<sup>4</sup> © Thom M. Shuman 2011. Posted on his Lectionary Liturgies blog.