



THE WORD FOR TODAY

Psalm 139, verses 1-12

“O Lord, you have searched me and know me”

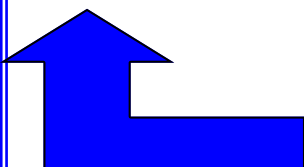


This is one of the many psalms written by King David, who ruled Israel a thousand years before Jesus came to earth. If we want to draw closer to God, then his psalms are a good place to start.

David, whether as a shepherd boy, a mighty warrior, or a famous king, was always close to God. He was a flawed human being like all of us, but he relied on the unwavering love and mercy of the God he had known since childhood. He sought forgiveness for his sins and guidance for the future. He knew his God would always be with him.

David also had artistic talents. He loved making music and writing songs to praise God. His psalms, however, cover all human emotions, because he wrote in times of despair and in times of joy. He pleaded, he complained, he asked God for forgiveness, but above all he voiced his wonder at the God he worshipped and his praise for all God meant to him. This poetic psalm speaks of the God he was close to all his life.

Follow the words of the first two sections of this psalm, beginning on the north wall of this little building and then continuing anti-clockwise round the church building, perhaps pausing on the benches if the weather is good. We are using the New International Version of the Bible, which you can find on the internet under Bible Gateway, and the whole “Word for Today” is on the church website, which is www.libertonkirk.net



***Turn immediately left to find the first verse of the Bible passage
on the bench***

***“O Lord, you have searched me and
you know me. You know when I sit
and when I rise; you perceive my
thoughts from afar.”***

1

Have you ever been in a place where you wondered if there was anybody who loved you? Even when surrounded by family and friends, there can be times when you wonder if anybody really knows or cares how you are feeling. How wonderful it is to realise that there is a God who is watching over us all the time—the God who knows us by name and knows even the number of hairs on our head.



***Lord, thank you for David's confidence that he has a God who knows him
through and through, and the reassurance that gives me.
Help me to trust that you know and care for me too.***

(No. 2 is on the bench facing us at the corner of the church building)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.”

2



God is so tuned in to us that he knows our thoughts even before we have managed to translate them into words. No need to speak out loud—just be with him. What an amazing God he is!

It does make me think, however, about the thoughts that float about in my head—and the words that come out of my mouth. I wish sometimes that I could wipe some of them out completely. I wonder what God thinks of them?

Then I wonder how I could tune in to God just as closely!

Lord, I am sorry for the things I say sometimes which I'm ashamed of. I confess that sometimes my thoughts bring me even more shame. Please forgive me, and draw me closer to you each day.

(Turn round the side of the church to find No. 3)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“You hem me in—
behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.”***

3



The world around us is a dangerous place for vulnerable human beings. We can walk straight into trouble. As Christians we try to follow Jesus in our daily lives, but temptations surround us; it's difficult to decide which way to go; who knows what dangers lurk in dark corners.

David said in another psalm “The Lord is my strength and my shield” and now he reminds us that God’s presence is there to defend us and his hand is there to guide.

***Lord, you know how easy it is to stray from the ways Jesus taught us.
You know what perils there are in this world.
Help me to value your ever-present protection and guidance,
and to call on it every day.***

(No. 4 is further along this side of the church)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“Such knowledge is too wonderful
for me, too lofty for me to attain.”***

4



There is quite a lot about God which is just too much to take in! His creative power, his faithfulness, but above all his love. Sacrificial love for undeserving wayward people like me. He gave his Son Jesus to die on the cross for me, so that I can call myself a child of God and look forward to life for ever with him. He really is an awesome God!

***Lord, sometimes I just have to stop and wonder at you.
It's really beyond my imagining that the Creator of the Universe could
care for me as an individual.
Thank you, Lord!***

(Walk along the back of the church and turn left to find No. 5)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your
presence? If I go up to the
heavens, you are there; if I make
my bed in the depths, you are there.”***

5



Have you ever felt you might prefer life without God? No restrictions, freedom to do what you want to do? But God is not there to restrict or restrain. God wants us to live life to the full, and wants us to call on him to help us to do that, because on our own we might well choose the wrong path.

***Lord, forgive me when I would rather go my own way
and forget about you.***

Help me to know and to value your presence with me.

(No. 6 is at the other side of the church tower)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide
me, your right hand will hold me
fast.”***

6



When David wrote these words he could never have envisaged the sort of travel and communications we have now. But wherever we might be able to go now, even into space beyond the pull of the earth's gravity, God will still be there offering guidance and security to all his people.

***Lord, hold me fast to you wherever I may be.
Let me know you are with me.
Show me the right path to take.***

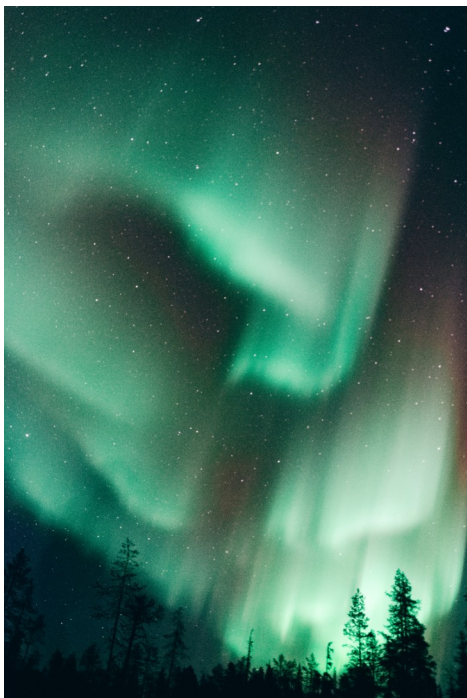
(Turn left to find No. 7 at the front of the church)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,’ even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”

7



Many lucky people have caught a glimpse of the Northern Lights recently in this country—a rare and beautiful sight in God’s creation, transforming the night sky.

All through the Bible God is light—whether it is blazing from a burning bush, in a pillar of cloud or fire, or in the person of Jesus, who said he was the Light of the World. Today he lives on in Spirit in the world and in us, and reaches into the darkest places of the world to bring light and life to all who seek him.

***Lord, you alone can transform darkness into light.
I have dark places in my life, some of my own making I admit.
Come into my heart this Easter with your transforming power.***

(There is hand sanitiser in the Offering House by the gate if you would like to use it.)

If anything you have read has prompted questions you would like to discuss, please contact John Young on 664 3067 or jyoung@churchofscotland.org.uk



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