

A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn – CMP 587

*Search me, O God,
and know my heart today;
try me, O Lord
and know my thoughts I pray:
see if there be some wicked way in me,
cleanse me from every sin
and set me free.*

A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Psalm 139:1-12 & 23-24

¹You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely ⁵You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

²³Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139 is attributed to David; it's a wisdom psalm of descriptive praise. It describes the attributes of the Lord, by his character and love which he relates to His people.

Verses 1-5 '*you have searched me,...*' God is active to search and test his people. He knows our motives, desires and words before they are expressed. God's intimate knowledge and purpose for us is to help, guide and protect us,.. not to judge us or condemn us.

Verse 10 '*even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast*'. These words speak of God's helpful presence,.. he is with us wherever we go, he knows our thought and ways, and he knows everything about us. If we just grasp hold of that truth,... God's ever presence with us wherever we go. Hallelujah praise the Lord our God.

Prayer – Heavenly Father, what joy it is to know that You know everything about us. Even the things that we do wrong can never separate us from Your unfailing love in Christ Jesus. Help us to live out this truth in our lives and may we do only those things that are pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' name we pray,

AMEN.

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray.

Lord God, among the busyness and bustle of the world, make us to be still and attentive to your presence;

- Keep our ears open to your call,
- Keep our hearts open to your love,

Make our minds sensitive to your coming, that we may ever rejoice that we dwell in you and you in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

We pray and give thanks for the Korean prayer mission. Thank you, Lord, that you brought these Christian brothers and sisters to the UK. It was such a blessed time,... worshipping, fellowship and wonderful prayers for our town and communities of Wigan. Lord, we pray for revival, and a move of the Holy Spirit in this town of ours,... that your kingdom come and your will be done. **Amen**

Lord God, teach us to be welcoming, open and friendly. May this our church be attentive to the needs of strangers and visitors., we be a welcoming church so as to reflect your love. We pray for churches who are struggling because of low and dwindling numbers, Lord revive your church in this our town we pray.

Lord of grace and goodness – **keep us in your peace.**

We pray and ask you to bless all who are overworked, stressed and over-anxious. We pray for all who minister and those who serve week in and week out, bless their service as they deliver the living word, and bless those who have a servant's hearts in our churches.

Lord of grace and goodness – **keep us in your peace.**

Finally,...take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask you're blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort and help those in need we pray.

Pray the LORD'S Prayer

Peace

Be still and accept the peace that God's presence brings:

- *Peace in your hearts*
- *Peace in your minds,*
- *Peace in your dealings.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

A prayer of blessing

The peace of God the Father be about you.

The peace of Christ the Son be around you.

The peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

AMEN