

Grace Devotion

Week of June 2, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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Psalm 139

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

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For believers in the act of worshiping God, this psalm has power to lift us like children in the arms of loving parents. We are known, comprehended, understood; for the innocent child, that is a place of complete security. Our needs are anticipated, our desires are foreseen, even our thoughts are not mystery and all this at an intensely personal level. The one who watches over us from the moment of our “being made in secret” until we “come to an end” knows us better than we know ourselves; we are safe. We belong. We are the beloved. I am reminded of a poem I once read by Methodist Pastor, Jan Richardson.

BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN

If you would enter into the wilderness,
do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are:

Beloved, named by the One
who has traveled this path before you.

Do not go without letting it echo in your ears,
and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart, do not despair.

That is what this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you
from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst,
from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night.
But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.
I can tell you that you will know the strange graces
that come to our aid only on a road such as this,
that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength,
that come alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves
toward our ear and with their curious insistence whisper our name:

Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

– Jan Richardson –

Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

PRAYER: Dear God, may I remember whose and who I am.
For I am your beloved child. Amen.

Blessings! Pastor Fred



June 2, 2024
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes and Prelude by Peyton Small

** Song: "My Hope Is in You" ~Aaron Shust

** Call to Worship

Lector: When our lives are stormy or uncertain,

Congregation: we know that God understands our needs and situations better than we do.

Lector: When others are experiencing stormy or uncertain times,

Congregation: we know that we are called to show compassion and commitment for the well-being of others

Lector: We are not broken, The Spirit is with us!

Congregation: For everything a season...Make it happen!

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Gracious God,

We know that you know our thoughts and actions even before they occur. Guide us through times in our lives to live with compassion, challenge situations that need our voice, and make it a priority to do good in the world, in Your name. Amen

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

** Hymn: The Church's One Foundation #277

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer
Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

** Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

Special Music: Peyton Small

**New Creed*

Time for the Young at Heart

Hymn: I Surrender All #366

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 139:1-6

Mark 2:23-3:6

Message: "Do Something...and Do It Right"

** Song: "Do Something" ~Matthew West

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing "A Choral Benediction"

Postlude "Victory in Jesus" by Eugene Monroe Bartlett

*On the screen

** Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

- Thanks to Peyton Small for the beautiful music on the alto sax!
- Koins for Kinny raised \$1182.
- We will collect for the Deacon's Fund during the month of June.

Upcoming Events

- Town Hall Meeting: June 23rd during worship
- Potluck and Crooners: June 23rd immediately following worship

Volunteer Opportunities—Sign ups in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers

Upcoming Meetings

- Consistory: June 10th
- Choir begins June 16th
- Worship and Music: June 24th

Do Something



Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
717-632-1146

How you can rejoice in the midst of loss

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.—
Colossians 3:1-2

One night in December of 1914, a fire in West Orange, New Jersey, claimed Thomas Edison's manufacturing facilities and with it, almost \$1 million worth of equipment and the record of much of his work.

The next morning as he walked about the charred embers of much of his life's work, Edison said, *"There is value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Now we can start anew."*

When material possessions are lost – be it a family heirloom, a retirement account, or a home – we have a choice in how we will respond. We can either throw up our hands in despair, or we can remember where our real security lies and look for a way forward.

How we react to losing worldly possessions says everything about our priorities. If we truly set our hearts on things above, not below, then however devastating our loss is, we can rejoice in knowing we have treasures in heaven that can never be destroyed.

So when you see the things of the world passing away, let it remind you of the coming world where nothing will pass away. Set your heart on heaven – not your earthly possessions – and you'll be able to rejoice even amidst worldly loss.

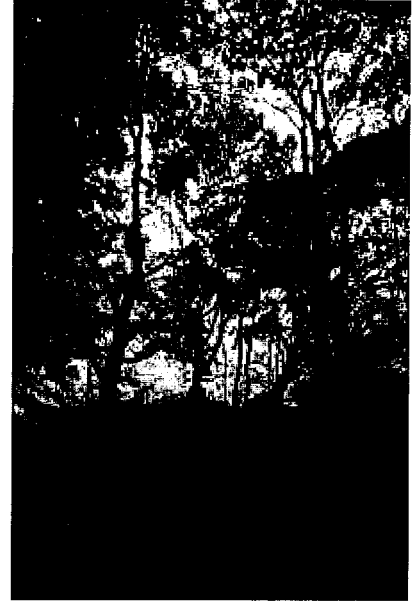
Prayer Challenge

Pray and ask God to help you maintain a focus on heavenly things, not earthly things.

Questions for thought

Think of your most valued earthly possession. How would you feel if it were lost?

How might looking at every worldly object as something that's passing away help give you perspective in a time of material loss?



Romans 8:12-17



ACCORDING

CHILDREN

DEEDS

HEIRS

SPIRIT

BEARING

DEATH

FLESH

RECEIVE

SUFFER

BRETHREN

DEBTORS

GLORIFIED

SLAVERY

WITNESS

Spring Flowers Word Search

Y F C O H O K A G H Y L E C H
E E L J I C J W Y X Q P S A B
R H O I I S Z D L J W V O R D
S S V G L O R J N F U L R N R
C H R Y S A N T H E M U M A E
P C G L N N C Y N N D U N T D
O W J G I L A O L A S I R I N
P F E A M D M P I I S V A O E
P A Y E G E O S D S L I Y N V
Y Q V M N E Y F O R C H I D A
Z Q R A Y W V X F B A H R M L
R E W O L F N U S A L G X I U
T Q R M W C A Q F T D G O O U
C I M W Y X N O K C I A P N V
J Q A A U N W I T H U A L D X

Anemone

Daffodil

Iris

Lily

Rose

Carnation

Daisy

Lavender

Orchid

Snapdragon

Chrysanthemum

Hydrangea

Lilac

Poppy

Sunflower

