

PRAY EVERY DAY August 8, 2021 Resource

Praise for How God Made Us from Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know full well.

A Prayer of Saint Patrick

Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us,
Christ on our right, Christ on our left,
Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise,
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of us,
Christ in every eye that sees us,
Christ in every ear that hears us.
Salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of the Christ,
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)

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| August 9: Isaiah 54 – 58 | August 13: Jeremiah 4 – 6 |
| August 10: Isaiah 59 – 63 | August 14: Jeremiah 7 – 9 |
| August 11: Isaiah 64 – 66 | August 15: Jeremiah 10 – 13 |
| August 12: Jeremiah 1 – 3 | |

Small Group or personal study

Read Psalm 139:1-24

- Notice in Psalm 139:1-6 how God knows well everything about you: your thoughts, words, and all your ways. The psalmist was in awe: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it” (v. 6, NRSV). Throughout the scriptures and in the life of Jesus Christ it is revealed how much God loves us. Have you noticed how much God notices you? What does it mean to you that God’s attention is upon you because of God’s love for you?
- In verses 7-12 the psalmist reveals that wherever they go, God is already there. God is inescapable. For the psalmist this is good news: “even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand hold me fast” (v. 10, NRSV). When have you felt furthest from God? What has felt like your farthest moment from God today? Is it good news or bad news to you that God is with you wherever you are? Why?
- In verses 13-18 the psalmist knows that they were created by God. God also made you “fearfully and wonderfully” so that you are one of God’s “wonderful works.” The psalmist said, “that I know very well” (v. 14, NRSV). How have you come to recognize how God has made you wonderfully? When do you struggle to see how God has made you wonderfully?
- Verses 17-18 have the psalmist trying to consider God’s thoughts. The psalmist marvels at the vast sum of them. One way to consider God’s thoughts is by observing signs of goodness, giftedness, uniqueness, and the image of God in other people. With over 7.8 billion people in the world today, that would be a task to keep us busy and in awe! Take time to consider one person you know and reflect on how something wonderful about them was God’s good thought in making them. Give thanks to God for making you and others so wonderfully.

- Verse 18 has a response to God’s creating, thoughts, and inescapable presence: “I come to the end – I am still with you.” The psalmist does not only affirm that God is near or present, but that “I am still with you.” When have you been closest to God in your life? What has been your closet moment to God today?

- Verses 23-24 give an invitation to God to search the psalmist’s heart to test and see if there is any wickedness within, so that God might lead the psalmist in life everlasting. This part of the psalm gives you an opportunity to open your heart and life to God for God to see what belongs and be directed by God into true life. If you are ready, pray verses 23-24 as your invitation to God to know your heart and lead you. What do you discern God sees in heart, thinking, speaking, and doing? How is God leading you to respond to God’s directing today?

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord’s Prayer

Share the Love of Jesus because It’s All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Opening Our Hearts to God from Psalm 139:23 (NRSV)

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.