

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

AUGUST

Again keeping an eye on the Bible in a Year plan I find it provides for us covering Psalms and Proverbs on one Sunday – and it is also All Saints' Day! So, in August we'll look at 4 Psalms. The choice is huge and all of us would have chosen different Psalms. I had to whittle down my original list by a lot – and several times!

In each case I have chosen the passage from the Gospels which appears in the Lectionary on the same Sunday as the chosen Psalm.

Psalm 139 is the Psalm set down for the Sunday between July 17th and July 23rd in Year A of the Lectionary.

Week 4 – Psalm 139

God's complete knowledge and care

Leader:

I stand in awe of the magnitude of your being and your creation.

I stand in awe of the minuscule detail of your concern.

OPENING RESPONSES

You know me, God, you know me.

YOU SEE ME WORKING. YOU SEE ME RESTING

You know what I think about. You know what I do.

YOU ARE EVERYWHERE. NEAR AND FAR, AND ALL AROUND ME.

You are in the light and in the darkness too.

YOU KNEW ME BEFORE I WAS BORN. YOU KNOW HOW LONG I WILL LIVE

Your knowledge is amazing, God. No one is as wise as you.

TAKE A LONG LOOK AT ME, GOD. SEE THE GOOD AND THE BAD IN ME.

Let your love grow in me.

GUIDE ME ALONG THE ROAD YOU HAVE MADE.

Hymn or song:

There are 2 versions of Psalm 139 in CH4. "You are before me, God, you are behind" (96) and "O God, you search me and you know me" (97)

Read Psalm 139 (you might want to read the whole Psalm but the verses usually read are 1 – 12 and 23 – 24)

Prayer

This prayer is a meditation on the Lord's Prayer written by Judy Dinnen and published by Wild Goose Publications (The Iona Community) in "Bare Feet and Buttercups."

Our Father in heaven,

Father, I sense you in busyness, in creativity and in the frustrations of the workplace, in laughter and tears of the family home, in conflict and peace-making in the world.

Open my eyes to glimpses of your heaven each day.

Hallowed be your name,

You call my name, you call me to worship – to sing and dance, to shout and proclaim, to give praise to your name.

Your kingdom come,

You call me to be your servant, to be your love in the world, to further your kingdom on earth.

Show me, guide me, how to serve you.

Your will be done,

That is my daily prayer.

What is your will for your people?

What is your will for the world?

What is your will for me?

I listen for your voice; show me the path to follow.

On earth as in heaven,

May I live your will in the small daily acts of living and in the way I respond to your call. May I work your will here and now on earth, with a vision of your glory.

Give us this day our daily bread;

You provide for my needs, my food and shelter; give me strength to serve you, wisdom and knowledge so I may share your gospel.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;

Forgive me for those days and years, those perplexing times, when I failed to respond to your call; for times when I doubt your power to equip me for the task; for holding back when I should step forward; for remaining silent when I should speak.

May I forgive those who doubt me or overlook me.

Lead us not into temptation;

May I not be tempted to divorce action from prayer, nor prayer from action.

May I not give way to complacency, nor undue fear, to arrogance nor timidity.

May I always act with honesty and integrity.

But deliver us from evil.

Help me to keep to the path that leads to you, and to avoid patterns of living that keep me from you.

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

Read: Matthew 13 verses 24 – 30 and 36 - 43

Reflection

Reflect for 5 – 7 minutes. **Please keep within that time frame!**

I think Psalm 139 is a remarkable Psalm. It is not asking for anything but rather the writer ponders aloud the presence of God and the mystery and miracle of being in God's attention. The words "my times are in your hand" encapsulates the theme of the Psalm.

This part of the service might involve music or a short drama; it might involve the use of "props" or something else visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This is a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and those who minister here in any capacity; **for how we move forward with worship in our churches; for those who are sick at this time; for all health workers and carers; for those whose income is uncertain; for our country as we move forward from the coronavirus crisis;** for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Today

MAY I GIVE AND RECEIVE LOVE

Today

MAY I WORK FOR JUSTICE

Today

MAY I LISTEN AND PRAY

Today

MAY I SING GOD'S PRAISES

Today

**MAY I DELIGHT IN GOD'S BEAUTY
TODAY AND EVERY DAY.**