

09-07-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“God knows what we are like--our heart, fears, thoughts, motives, dreams, and disappointments. God knows our past, present, and future. God understands and notices what's going on around us, to us, and inside us. There is no need or reason to pretend that we are perfect because Jesus loves us wholeheartedly, without question, including all of the not-so perfect parts inside us.”

Jerry Owyang



Psalm 139:1-6 & 13-18 + Luke 14:25-33

Questions for Reflection —

- How aware are you of God's inescapable presence in your life? How does knowing that God knows your every thought, word, and action comfort you? In what ways does it challenge you or make you uneasy? Where, when, or how do you struggle to maintain awareness of God's presence with you? What spiritual practice(s) might promote your awareness of God's accompanying and guiding presence in all circumstances and situations?
- What does it mean for you to claim your identity as someone “fearfully and wonderfully made”? How do you know yourself shaped by God both inside and out? What person(s) in your life might be struggling to know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made, beloved by God? What words of acceptance and affirmation might you offer them? What does it mean for a society to value the dignity of every human being as made in God's image? How might we as a congregation contribute towards building such a world?
- How has your relationship with God helped you to know yourself better? What will help you become more aware of the God-given potential of your life? What growing edges has God revealed to you? What do you need in order to live more fully into becoming who and what God created you to be? What would it look like for you to share your authentic self with others? How can we as a congregation support and encourage one another to be more fully our true selves, using our giftedness to serve God's purposes?

Daily Household Prayer

All-knowing God, we gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who You are, and for all that You have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves—all our thoughts and actions—and yet You love us. No matter where we go or what we do, Your love encircles us—ahead and behind— gently leading and guiding and blessing. We praise You for You love and Your faithful presence in our lives. May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with Your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are Your people, called by Your name. Amen.