

Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
9th June 2020

READINGS

GOD, investigate my life; get all the facts first-hand.
I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight.
You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too—
your reassuring presence, coming and going.
This is too much, too wonderful— I can't take it all in!

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breath-taking.
Body and soul, I am marvellously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;
all the stages of my life were spread out before you.
The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.
Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful!
God, I'll never comprehend them!
I couldn't even begin to count them— any more than I could count the sand of the sea.
Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 (The Message Translation)

“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

Matthew 6:30-34 (The Message Translation)

“May the God who made the nerve endings on the wings of a fly make you aware of the little things in the world around you”

Mike Yaconelli

REFLECTION

If you were asked by someone to define God, what would you say?

Would it be holiness? Would it be creator? Would it be ever-present? Would it be all-powerful? Would it be saviour? How would you describe God?

There are so many facets to God that a definition is impossible – for how can we, mere mortals, define God?

Yet for me the characteristic of God that stands strongest is love. It is love that brings about creation. It is love that causes God to continually come close to people (despite rejection and let down). It is love that makes Jesus come as one of us. And it is love that leads to the cross and the resurrection.

Our readings this week reflect the deep impact of God's love upon our lives. Throughout the scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments the depth of God's love for us is revealed. There is no part of our lives that is beyond the grasp of God's love. There is not a moment, not an incident, not a hurt nor a celebration that is lived outside of God's love. God knows us intimately and intricately. And, knowing the minute details of our lives, God always responds to us in love.

God's love for us is a love so deep, so personal, so caring that it gives us hope even in the darkest of days. In these difficult times in which we find ourselves at present, it is good to remember that we are each a beloved person. We are each loved by God.

PRAYER

God you are love,
Love incarnate,
Love unbreakable,
Love for each and love for all.

God you are love,
Love that that will not give up,
Love that will not turn away,
No matter how dark the way may be,
Love that counts each one of us precious beyond price

God you are love,
Love so intimate
Love so intricate,
Love in each moment and each cry.

God you are love
Love that never fails
Love that gives hope no matter what.
Love that outlives need and doubt.

God who is love,
Reveal yourself in my life today

Meet my need out of the storehouse of your goodness.

God who is love,
Reveal your love through my life today
Make yourself known through my words and actions today.

In Jesus name
Amen

