

Canon Davis Memorial Church

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2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY • January 17, 2021
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 20 • Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 • John 1:43-51

Dear Friends,

I received a new camera for Christmas. Cameras today are quite different than the ones available a few decades ago. First, they use to have direct automatic controls for having the right amount of light fall upon the film. There were no digital cameras.

Digital cameras are wonderful! They take photography to a whole new level. I am amazed at the clarity and proper exposure offered by these digital cameras. These neat inventions of people do have some drawbacks, however. One big drawback can be the instruction booklet. They rightly start with the listing of cautions. Yet, quite confusing, are the directions for setting up the various features. Maybe because we are not used to setting these up properly, the instructions are not always that clear. At times like this, we wish things could be more clearly explained.

My solution was to find someone who has a similar camera and was willing to help. The camera is now a delight to use; but with little or no credit to the instruction book. We want to be able to have the ability to understand the ins and outs of some of our purchases. We desire to have a certain clarity of information.

If that is the case with us, imagine what it must be with God and people! There are billions of people in God's creation. God asks for our prayers on an ongoing basis. So it is that God hears all of our prayers in any given moment. Not only is this beyond our imagining, there is the whole issue of how God keeps up with our physical condition and our spiritual health.

Our reaction can be to dismiss these as impossible tasks, even for God. How on earth can the abilities of God be explained? They stretch beyond our understanding. This is one reason some folk become all too quick to dismiss certain religious claims as pure fantasy.

Enter this week's Psalm. Psalm 139 is one of my favourites. It is seldom printed with all of its verses. Some print certain portions, while leaving out other portions. But I urge you to look this Psalm up in your Bible and read it all. Why? Because it reveals to us just how close our God is to us as we live out the earthly portion of our eternal lives.

This is where our transparency as people in God's presence becomes a vital issue. I encourage you to read, here, a few of the verses from Psalm 139:

^{139:1} O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

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

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

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

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

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

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Yet, there is more written by the Psalmist. I think the above selection of verses convey the central message of Psalm 139. While there may be a transparency problem among people; to God, all people are totally transparent. We can hide nothing from God's view because the God who created us understands who and what we are. God knows us individually. This may seem puzzling to some who think they are worldly wise. For their wisdom is an invention of the mind. On the other hand, wise people seek wisdom from their Maker! God as our Creator understands us and sent Jesus Christ to share God's wisdom with us.

For we are fully transparent to God. In this, there is a certain comfort. The God that knows us completely is the very same God who loves us dearly. May we always be open to God's love and God's movement in our lives. We, indeed, are wonderfully and fearfully made! We are known and loved by God!

The blessings of our loving, Creator God be upon you and those you love.

— Ray+

You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at revgregjenkins@gmail.com He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

We are joining with many parishes in our deanery in providing telephone support to our members and friends. This support is designed to keep us up to date, while not requiring a computer. A CDMC Pastoral Letter will be read this week through our phone ministry. **1-888-229-5422**