

REFLECTION SEPTEMBER 6TH 2026 BASED ON

GENESIS 2:4B – 22 & PSALM 139:13-16

‘UNDER THE CANOPY LOVE IS WITH US’

These few verses of Psalm 139 is an invitation to sit in awe. David isn't speaking of a God that sits at a distance from us, as one might speak about a distant star. Instead, God is described as personally, intimately involved in human life—“*You formed my inward parts... knit me together in my mother's womb.*” There's a loving tenderness woven in the words. God isn't portrayed as an idea or a force; God is portrayed as a Maker, lovingly careful and close, working even where no one else can see. God has been present from the beginning—at the hidden, early shaping of life and we believe God is present now, and in the time that follows.

David's Psalm continues with a truth that shakes us awake: God “knows me” and “knows everything” (as David unfolds his psalm, we come to the understanding that nothing about us is beyond God's understanding). God's knowledge isn't just information; it is awareness that reaches deeply into our being. God knows our thoughts before we speak, our prayers before we say them and God knows the patterns of our lives before we can interpret them. This isn't the kind of knowledge that steals freedom, makes one feel inferior, or crushes the spirit. It's knowledge that comforts, because it means we are not alone in our belonging or becoming who God wants us to be. We may feel unseen by people. We may feel misunderstood by the world. But Psalm 139 declares that the God who knitted us together also keeps watch over the threads of our days, not just mine but everyone's.

In worship, this truth becomes something we can carry. It becomes a kind of steadiness. When we're tempted to believe that we're random standalone creatures of habit, or that our lives are accidental, David gives us an answer. We're not a mistake each one of us have been woven with loving intention. When we're tempted to believe that our pain is meaningless, David's psalm reassures us that even what you didn't choose isn't outside God's sight. The God who formed us in silence also holds us in the moments we cannot explain.

And yet the Psalm doesn't only teach us about just how close God is to us in our beginnings, it also teaches us about God's involvement in our present reality of life. The world around us isn't something God watches from the distance as nothing escapes God's awareness: the going out and coming in, the rising and resting, the quiet and the loud, the softly spoken and the harsh words that cause pain and hurt. God isn't indifferent to our circumstances. God isn't distant from the places we reach and the paths we take. God, our heavenly Father, Creator of heaven and earth is right with us wherever we are.

From both the Genesis reading and the psalm, we can also hear the witness of Paul who insists God isn't far away. God is with us. God is our companion in our experiences, both the ones that fill our hearts with light and the ones that press grief forming the lumps our throat. In times of joy, when a new life is welcomed and we stand in the presence of wonder, we can remember that God is there, not only as an observer of miracles, but as the upholding and sustaining presence behind the miracle. The same God who knit life together in the womb is the God who meets us when life becomes audible, when we see faces, we have been praying for, when we hold new hands and whisper gratitude.

And when grief arrives, Paul's insistence still holds. God doesn't withdraw when we are overwhelmed, God wraps us up in the ways that only a living God can, offering us love, comfort, compassion,

unspeakable peace and the knowledge that all will be well again. We continue to be in God's keeping when the words "ashes to ashes" are spoken. Even then, God is present, nearer than our own trembling breath, nearer than the empty chair, nearer than the questions that have no answers yet. The hope of these moments isn't that death is ignored, but that it isn't ultimate. Worship, at its deepest, is the act of trusting that God remains God in every season of our lives.

As the wool has been woven through this family of faith this morning we can see our connectedness, no one is alone, no one is left behind, we're all bound together as the body of Christ, holding us together, sharing our lives together, helping when and where needed so that we all have the chance to heal, to grow, to just sit under the canopy of love and 'be' with God kind of like the mycelium that's found in nature and **that's** something to rejoice and sing about!

So, here in this place of prayer and song, we can allow our reading of Genesis and Psalm 139 to shape our worship as we bring our whole selves, including our hidden fears, our hopeful dreams, our gratitude, our sorrow completely into the awareness of a God who knows us completely. May we hold tightly to Paul's assurance, the same God who knit us together isn't distant from us now. Whether we rejoice at new life or stand at the edge of loss, God is with us. God sees, God understands, and God stays.

Amen