

Sunday, June 2, 2024 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Bible Study
“All-Knowing Creator”
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, have participants answer, “Who are the people in your life by whom you are truly *known*? What is it like to be *known* in this way?”

Read Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the text?

Read Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 again -

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Group Dialogue

- Think back to a time you tucked a loved one into bed, “hemming” them into a safe slumber. In the first several verses of this scripture, the psalmist uses a collection of similar images to talk about a relationship with God. Which images show the depth of God’s searching and knowing about the psalmist’s life? (Psalm 130:1-6)
- What metaphors does the psalmist use to describe the way we are made? (Psalm 139:13-16)
- The psalmist says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. What do you think that phrase means and why does it (or does it not) matter?
- Notice that the preaching notes interpret the psalm as, “the only knowledge of God accessible is in relationship.” Are there aspects of God we can think about and reason outside of a personal relationship with the Divine? If so, what are the limitations of reasoning out who God is?
- If not, how can a person deal with personal doubts surrounding reasoning that may seemingly come into conflict (e.g., scientific insights)?
- Let’s get personal. What does it mean to you to consider that you are a “wonderful” work of God? How does considering this reality make you feel (e.g., angry, relieved, unmoved, inspired)?
- Let’s put on our creative thinking caps. The preaching notes for today talk a lot about the need for creeds or a shared list of beliefs: “*A creed, then, is a statement of belief that defines us as*

a community of faith. It identifies us for ourselves and for the world at large. We are the people who believe. And because we believe, we live, we serve, we act, we love.”

- Come together with your group and give each person a chance to write **a single line** of belief based upon reason and/or their relationship with God. (Ask someone to serve as a scribe or use a whiteboard.) Read the *Creed* you have made as part of your closing prayer.
- Have someone agree to email or take pictures/make copies of the creed now to use daily (or whatever is agreed by the group) for one week, even if the creed is not perfect. (Note: Each person has the freedom to adjust the creed as needed for personal use.)

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God, who has searched us and known us: we are longing to be hemmed in by your love. Release us from what we thought we knew about you and create afresh in us an image of who you might be in our midst. Help us to know you as you know us and therefore to move closer and closer to the grace you have waiting for us today. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

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