

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. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. **17** How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! **18** I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Fearfully and wonderfully made. It is hard to hold a tiny baby in your arms and not think of those beautiful words from this gorgeous psalm. It is as if the Psalmist were there to hear God whisper, “Let us make humankind in our image...” Us...our. The Psalmist has no concern for the biology or physiology of baby making...the psalmist is still thinking “us and our.”

*You have searched me...and known me
even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking – that's how close I am to you.
You know all the possibilities of where I'm headed,
where I might fall...where I might succeed
You know my words before I think them
You have wrapped yourself around me...laid your hand gently on mine.*

Even when we get to the images of forming and knitting together all the parts, we can understand that the psalmist isn't trying to describe the science of creation...but pointing us to its relationship to the creator. Though the creator was knitting and weaving from substance barely seen, the creator was also knowing, seeing, dreaming, planning, shaping, holding the life of the creation. The psalmist wants us to see the intimacy between us and our God.

Our connection is not merely physical, it is relational. We are known. And even though the psalmist acknowledges we cannot fully know God – we are given enough – we have enough grains of sand to count – enough knowledge to reach the end of our abilities and still see God...right there...loving us...holding us...knowing us.

Our Baptism waters may seem very personal. They wash away our sin, they symbolize death to our old life and rebirth to a new life in Christ...but this is a communal pool. These are the waters from which Christ rose and the Spirit came, and voice of God said, "This is my son, my beloved." These waters acknowledge that we are known by God...these waters are us stretching out our hand to God and saying, I recognize you from the womb...you have had me...held me...loved me...I'll now have you, hold you, love you.

As Baptized believers we take vows to help each other keep those connections and stay in those right relationships – honoring all the psalmist has so beautifully illustrated for us – intimacy, community, connectedness to things far bigger than we can be individually. Which is why Christ's final act of ministry before the sacrifice of the cross was to gather his disciples at the table...to reconnect the twelve who had begun to squabble about who was first and who was more important...to mourn the ones he knew would betray him and deny him...the ones he had searched...and known. He asked them to come and sit...to take and eat...to receive and drink. They shared time, conversation, a meal...he washed their feet... intimacy... community...connection.

Ours is not an all-knowing creator who has designed something and thrust it out into the world to see what it will become. Ours is an all-knowing creator who continues to hold us...to listen and to speak to us...to lead and to guide...to continue to create and recreate...allowing us space for redemption.

We may not be able to know God fully, but in the Apostles Creed, we proclaim our belief in God the Father, Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Almighty...there is none greater. Father...the one whose image we bear, who makes up a portion of who we are.

These waters and this table are the ways our All-knowing Creator...our Almighty Father...has chosen to connect with us...to pull us in once more and touch us, hold us, be one with us – and give us the space to be one with each other...all of creation together and at peace.

All of creation together and at peace with the creator...as the water cleanses, the bread sustains, the blood redeems...and the people know...you know...in that moment...you have been known...you have been seen...you are fearfully and wonderfully made... fearfully and wonderfully loved.