

# Order of Service

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Message by Pastor Nick

Sermon Series: I Will Not Forget You

*"Kept by God, Even When Memory is Lost"* Psalm 139



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*We invite you to use this "order of service" today.*

*You might consider reading the texts and prayers aloud.*

*Words of songs might or sung, either acapella, or with the tracks that have been provided, by means of links. Simply click on the song titles.*

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## Call To Worship

In front of us, behind us, to our right,  
to our left: look! God is there!

In our past, beside us today, waiting  
in the future: look! God is there!

in the shadows, in the light:  
look! God is there!

From the top of the mountains,  
to the bottom of the seas;  
in the morning, in the evening,  
in every moment: God is with us!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Written by Thom M. Shuman*

## Song [I Sing the Mighty Power of God](#)

We sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.  
We sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with his word  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,  
where'er we turn our eyes,  
if we survey the ground we tread  
or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes your glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from you  
is ever in your care,  
there's not a place where we can flee  
but God is present there.

**Song Jesus the Very Thought of Thee**

Jesus, the very thought of thee  
with sweetness fills the breast;  
but sweeter far thy face to see,  
and in thy presence rest.  
O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
to those who fall, how kind thou art!  
How good to those who seek!  
But what to those who find? Ah, this  
nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is,  
none but his loved ones know.  
Jesus, our only joy be thou,  
as thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be thou our glory now,  
and through eternity.

**Song Keep me Safe, O God**

*Keep me safe, O God:  
You are my hope;  
You are my hope, O God.*

I say to God, "You are my only God,  
I have no good except in You."

I find in God always my cup of joy;  
And God will keep my life secure.

I bless my God: God who has counseled me.  
At night my heart gives me counsel too.

I keep my God always before my eyes;  
With God beside me I'm secure.

And so my heart always is glad in God;  
My body too shall dwell secure.  
For you will not ever abandon me,  
Or let Your servant lose the path.

The path of life You have revealed to me,  
And in Your presence is my joy.

**Prayer Forgetting (A Prayer for a Parent with Alzheimer's)**

She forgets Lord.  
I have to keep telling her again and again.  
Must I do this till the end?  
I grow weary of retelling.  
How to explain in a different way so maybe this time she will remember  
But she won't, will she Lord?  
Though she fiercely wants to remember.  
And is frightened of the idea that she does not.  
She is scared.  
I too am scared of what may lie ahead.  
Lord of time and space, remind us of the one truth  
That you are real  
That you care and that you are waiting for all of us in heaven.  
If we can remember your love  
Then that will be enough.  
You love created us.  
Your love sustains us.  
Your love calls us home.  
And you have said  
I will never forget my people.

By Elizabeth Slattery, in *Mom's Psalms*

**Invitation for Personal Prayers:**

*We invite you to offer up your own prayers in this time.*

*Whether silently or spoken out loud, praying for yourselves, our  
community, country and world in this time.*

**Text: Psalm 139**

You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.  
Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.  
You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"  
even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.  
My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.  
How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!  
They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.  
Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?  
I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.  
Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

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**Song Draw me Close to You**

Draw me close to You  
Never let me go  
I lay it all down again  
To hear You say that I'm Your friend  
You are my desire  
No one else will do  
'Cause nothing else can take Your place  
To feel the warmth of Your embrace  
Help me find the way  
Bring me back to You

*You're all I want  
You're all I've ever needed  
You're all I want  
Help me know You are near*

**Song Step by Step**

*Oh God, You are my God,  
And I will ever praise You.*

I will seek You in the morning  
And learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me  
And I will follow You all of my days.

Oh God, You are my God,  
And I will ever praise You.

**Benediction**

Wherever you find yourself this week, know this:  
God knows you better than you know yourself.  
No matter where you go or what you do,  
God is already there,  
surrounding you with mercy  
and guiding you with love.  
So go with joy and confidence,  
knowing that God goes with you.

*Adapted from a benediction written by Christine Longhurst.*