

## ***God is Close***

For where two or three meet  
in my name, I shall be there  
with them (Mt:18.20)

### **Pause for reflection.**

#### **Psalm 139**

You search me Lord and  
know me.  
Wherever I sit or stand,  
You read my inmost  
thoughts;  
Whenever I walk or rest,  
You know where I have  
been.

Before a word slips from  
my tongue,  
Lord, you know what  
I will say.  
You close in on me,  
All this overwhelms me –  
Too much to understand !

You created every  
part of me,  
Knitting me in my mother's  
womb.  
For such handiwork, I  
praise you.  
Awesome this great wonder  
I see it so clearly !

You watched every bone  
Taking shape in secret,  
forming in the hidden  
depths.  
You saw my body grow  
According to your design

You recorded all my days  
Before they ever began.  
How deep are your thoughts  
How vast their sum !  
Like countless grains of  
sand,  
Well beyond my grasp.

Search my heart, probe me  
God !  
Test and judge my thoughts.  
Look ! Do I follow crooked  
paths ?  
Lead me along your ancient  
way.

**Glory to you source of all  
being, Eternal Word and  
Holy Spirit, as it was in  
the beginning, is now and  
will be forever. Amen.**

### **Pause for musical reflection.**

#### **Reading**

Elijah was told, "Go out and  
stand on the mountain  
before Yahweh." Then  
Yahweh himself went by.  
There came a mighty wind,  
so strong that it tore the  
mountains and shattered the  
rocks before Yahweh. But  
Yahweh was not in the  
wind. After the wind came  
an earthquake. But Yahweh  
was not in the earthquake.  
After the earthquake came a  
fire. But Yahweh was not  
in the fire. And after the  
fire there came the sound of  
a gentle breeze. And when  
Elijah heard this, he covered  
his face with his cloak and  
went out and stood at the  
entrance of the cave. Then  
a voice came to him...  
(1 Kings 19:11-13)

### **Pause for reflection**

#### **Intercessions:**

#### **Response**

**God is close to the broken  
– hearted and saves those  
who are crushed in spirit.  
(Ps: 34.18)**

We remember those who  
are sick or disabled.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
are anxious and troubled.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
are hurt and embittered.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
are weighed down with  
responsibilities.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
lack the necessities of life.  
**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
suffer rejection.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
endure violence and  
injustice.

**(Pause & Response)**

We remember those who  
grieve and mourn.

**(Pause & Response)**

### **Reflection: How Wonderful is my Soul (Mechtild of Magdeburg)**

How wonderful is my soul  
Which you, my God,  
have created  
Nothing can truly show its  
beauty.  
Nothing can truly set me  
free.

Except your love flowing  
through my being  
Speaking to me of things  
unknown.  
And in your love flowing  
through my being  
My soul awakes to you,  
Holy One.

And the joy of this  
awakening  
Just cannot be described.  
Nothing can truly tell its  
wonder  
Nothing can ever give such  
peace.

#### **Final Prayer**

**The Lord your God is  
with you, a God who is  
mighty to save. Your God  
will take great delight in  
you and will quiet you  
with love and rejoice over  
you with singing.  
(Zeph: 3.17)**

