

## COMMON PRAYER

I love the image that God and I are attached to one another through a line or rope of love. When I sin I break the connection. When I repent and seek to change it as if God in forgiving gathers up the two ends of the rope and ties them together restoring our connection. This makes the rope shorter. My rope is full of knots. And the wonderful news is this hasn't made God one bit further away. With grace he keeps coming nearer still. Know brothers and sisters that God never abandons repentant sinners. He draws us closer still.

Oh, LORD, Author of Life, architect of galaxies, creator and designer of all that is we marvel that you should be Our Father. You have come in person, in Jesus, to reveal to us your love. You have stitched your lot to ours. You left home that we might come home. We celebrate the Love that brought you to fetch us. We rejoice that You have adopted us, and named us as Your own. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may forever bring you joy. We worship with angels and arch angels and all the company of heaven as we magnify your most Holy name. Amen

### **PSALM 139** (adapted)

All: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

A. You know when I sit and when I rise. You perceive what I am thinking from afar.

B. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

A. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely.

B. You have laid your hand on me.

ALL: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

A. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

B. 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.

- A. 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.
- B. 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.

ALL: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

- A. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- B. Were we to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

ALL Search me, O 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.

#### **ANTIPHONAL READING**

**People:** Papa, we are your pilgrimming children.. But we confess how easily we wander off to a far away land to get a life for ourselves rather than receive the life you give to us in your home.

**Abba:** *Where can you go from my Spirit? Where can you flee from my presence? If you say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me, even the darkness will not be dark to me. The night will shine like the day for darkness is as light to me'* (Psalm 130: 11, 12)

**People:** . Father we so easily lose our way, lose ourselves, lose our perspective, lose our hope.

**Abba** *I sent my Son to seek and to save what was lost.* (Luke 19.10)

**People:** We confess that we frequently clamor for a security rooted in things rather than you. We design our own mansions and even as they crumble around us we reluctantly follow.

**Abba:** *I will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated: I will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.* (Isaiah 65: 2, 3)

**People:** We complain. We doubt. We are full of fear.

**Abba:** *I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, "be free.'* (Isaiah 49. 8-9)

**People:** Living LORD we so quickly forget the benefits and blessings of being your child.

**Abba:** *I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me.* (Isaiah 45: 5-6)

**People:** Abba forgive us for rationalizing our sins, denying our limitations and blaming our faults on others. Forgive us for staying away.

**Abba;** *I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me for I have redeemed you.* (Isaiah 44: 22)

**People:** We do return. We want to come home. We long to be restored to your loving arms.

**Abba** *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. . . .to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.* (Isaiah 43: 17-21)

**People:** Gracious Father, set our hearts on pilgrimage.

**Abba:** *My Son has prepared a place for you. Remember, He told you He would. Blessed are those whose strength is in me, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage."* (Jn. 14.2; Ps. 84:5)

**People:** Even the sparrow has found home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young; a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, they are ever praising you. (Ps. 84. 3-4)

**Abba:** *Come! And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let them come; and whoever wishes let them take the free gift of the water of life.* (Rev. 22. 17)

**People:** SO BE IT. AMEN.

## **BENEDICTION**

MAY YOU KNOW THE LOVE OF THE FATHER AND HIS WELCOME FOR YOU AS YOU GO. BRING THAT LOVE AND WELCOME TO YOUR WORLD AS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN WE WILL ALL BE WELCOMED HOME INTO OUR FATHER'S HOME AND HEART FOREVER. AMEN.