

## Theme for 2020

### **I AM WHAT ‘YOU’ SEE!**

#### **‘LORD, Open My Eyes, Help Me Believe, I Am What YOU See.’**

*“Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light... Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother’s womb. I thank you, High God—you’re breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you. The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day. Your thoughts—how rare, how beautiful! God, I’ll never comprehend them! I couldn’t even begin to count them—any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you.”*

**Matthew 6:22 (MSG); Psalm 139:13-18 (MSG)**



#### ***This Week’s Thought – September 27, 2020***

---

*“We no longer see your miraculous signs. All the prophets are gone, and no one can tell us when it will end. How long, O God, will you allow our enemies to insult you? Will you let them dishonor your name forever? Why do you hold back your strong right hand? Unleash your powerful fist and destroy them. You, O God, are my king from ages past, bringing salvation to the earth. You split the sea by your strength and smashed the heads of the sea monsters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan and let the desert animals eat him. You caused the springs and streams to gush forth, and you dried up rivers that never run dry. Both day and night belong to you; you made the starlight and the sun. You set the boundaries of the earth, and you made both summer and winter.”* **Psalm 74:9-17 (NLT)**

---

**“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.”** Psalm 74 finds the people of God in a dark and confusing place. Familiar signs of comfort and stability are long gone. Trusted voices of leadership seem entirely absent from their common life, and no one has a clue what the future will hold. That lack of clarity presents them with an overwhelming sense of fear and anxiety. Does any of this sound familiar?

The Psalms have often been called the “prayer book of the Church.” There are many reasons for this, yet I am convinced one of them is their profound ability to speak across cultures and generations into the specific situations of our given day and context.

September 27, 2020

The Book of Psalms contains the full range of human emotion, from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows, and while the specifics may vary from place to place, their enduring value is in their honesty and transparency as they reveal to us the timeless longings of the human heart and our journey through life following the Lord.

There is good news in this passage for us today, because Psalm 74 not only shows us the way humans in the past have encountered similar seasons of strife and loss, but most significantly, it shows us how we are to respond as people of faith in these times of trial. In the same breath the psalmist is honest about the source of their pain (“*no one among us knows how long*”) and is able to direct that longing towards someone who can do something about it (“*How long, O God?*”).

Every moment of human limitation is simultaneously an invitation to discover the limitless goodness and power of God.

When present difficulties leave God’s people confused and disoriented, they take a step back and remember, and we must learn to do the same. As it says in verse 12, “*You, O God, are my king from ages past, bringing salvation to the earth.*” Though you and I are not “*from ages past,*” there is one who has been “*bringing salvation*” since before the world began. He brings order out of chaos, crushes the head of every enemy, and is the light that shines into the darkness.

If you find yourself unable to see a way forward through the present moment, whatever that may look like for you and the specifics of your life, the ancient wisdom from the Psalms is crystal clear: God, who was faithful in the past, is not fazed by the present nor blind to the future. He is in control and working and sustaining us, even in this very moment, with His perfect love, and so you and I can rest in peace and awake in safety (Psalm 4:8).

*“O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.”* (Isaiah 25:1)

**“I am who You say I am! I am God’s workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I am an ambassador for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9). I am greatly loved by God (Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12). I AM WHAT ‘YOU’SEE!’”**

**Application:** Take time today to recall the faithfulness of God in your own life over the years.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Father, we take great comfort in the fact that You are neither surprised nor phased by our present struggles, but are instead the same faithful God who has led Your people in the past, and we believe that You are with us in this very moment. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

**Yours in Christ, Pastor King**