

PSALM 139:1-6

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away.

You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know!

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

SOMETHING OLD—SOMETHING NEW SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

The end of the Church Year flows into the beginning of a New Calendar Year, almost effortlessly; except that we have chosen to recognize a beginning and an end, in the hope that the new will be an improvement on the old. ...

Although, the wise king Solomon suggested that there is nothing new under the sun.

Nevertheless, there is great value in reflecting—Facebook and Google keep reminding me of what happened 12 months ago or even five years ago. Mostly it is reminiscing; sometimes it results in serious reflecting on where I have been and where I have come to.

This year will involve some serious reflection on both the past and the future, for me, at least. There is a lot to reflect on, 70 years of blessings, 49

years of marital bliss, 46 years of ministry, almost 7

years of Light. But that is the past. Just as significantly, the next 12 months take on a direction of their own. And those months ahead bear serious consideration.

However, such reflections are not carried out in a void. Life is experienced and lived in the light of God's grace and love. Our journeys are shadowed by the care and compassion of a generous Lord.

This is the perspective of Psalm 139. The psalm writer reflects on the way that the hand of God plays a role in every part of our lives. On the one hand, that causes serious concern, if God is interfering in things that we hold dearly. (There is no place that can hide me from God.) On the other hand, there is unbelievable comfort and satisfaction knowing that God has showered grace on my life, especially at moments I have needed his love and compassion.

How are you going to journey this coming year? Will you run with purpose and boldness, even in a rush? Or will you step forward cautiously, always conscious of the inevitable roadblocks ahead?

*Leigh Newton wrote a song based on this Psalm: **Search me, O God!** It has become a cry for God to search, to heal, to comfort, to encourage and to guide. The foundation of this confident prayer is that God's loving devotion and tender touch alone are the source of my confidence in life.*

Our worship this New Year offered praise for God's care in the past and prayed for a peaceful future in the

*year ahead. Your life is always lived in the hands of
our loving and gracious God.*

Your shepherd-servant and brother in Christ.

Pastor Geoff