Dear Ones in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the One who is Love. Let us quieten our hearts to hear God’s word for us today.

Today’s Lectionary psalm in Psalm139:1-12, 23-24

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. 3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,  O  LORD, you know it completely. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from your  spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your  right hand shall hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night  is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you... 23 Search me, O God, and know my  heart; test me and know  my thoughts. 24 See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

God knows us. God knows all about us. There is nowhere that God is not present. God is present even when others may doubt that God would ever be present in some people. God is present in the people we love to hate, and sometimes that is in our own selves, not others.

The psalmist is acknowledging that God is everywhere and there’s no where one can go that is beyond God’s present. The poetry of the first 12 verses sings of God’s intimate presence.

I need to remember this especially when the darkness of troubled times is evident in many areas of life. After a difficult week of clogged drains, this morning I heard of the death of Rep. John Lewis, who has always been my hero. He was the one person who personified God’s love in his life. He practiced non-violence, he forgave the man who beat him, he challenged others with truth, he worked for justice, and he lived his life knowing God was everywhere.

Like the psalmist and Rep. Lewis when I acknowledge the awesomeness of God, I humbly ask God to search me. Know my heart and my thoughts I don’t tell others. “See if there’s any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

May we keep before us and within the beauty and depth of this psalm. May God search our hearts, reveal any wicked ways, and lead us towards God’s way always.

Please pray with me:

God of grace and God of glory, You are everywhere. Thank you for being with us even when darkness comes. Help us remember the darkness is as light to you and grant that we may walk faithfully in Your love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.