



pursuing the presence of **GOD**

THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS ALWAYS INTIMATELY LEADING

Main text: Psalm 139

This weekend, Pastor Cherryse spoke about Psalm 139's rich portrayal of a God who knows you, sees you, and leads you towards intimacy with Him. This Psalm powerfully reminds us that we pursue God's presence because He first created and continually delights in ours. Inherent within every person is the desire to be fully known, understood, accepted and loved without condition and for eternity. Yet oftentimes, the shame that comes from the fear of vulnerability, being seen for all of who we are, stifles our connection with God and others. From our inmost being to our uttermost wanderings, God's thoughts towards us remain fixed on pursuing us in love and leading us toward eternal life in Him. In authentic humility, we find freedom to pursue God's presence without shame, hypocrisy, or fear.

Questions:

- What verse(s) in this Psalm stick out to you? Do verses 1-6 bring comfort or conviction? Why?
- David asks in verse 7, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" Have you ever wanted to run from God? How does His constant presence impact your response to Him?
- God created and formed you before anyone had any idea of your existence. He saw you then and has never looked away. How does knowing that you have no need to strive for His loving attention, affect the way you see yourself and others?
- A quick google search on abortion will reveal what a prominent topic it is in society today. How do verses 13-18 reveal God's thoughts on abortion? How does John 8:1-11 reveal Jesus's heart towards any person who has sinned?
- In verses 19-22, David holds nothing back from God and shares his frustration with the way He handles his enemies. Does this encourage you to share your rawest emotions with God, particularly in light of Him knowing them already? How does God's mercy towards you inform your thoughts on how to respond and pray for others?
- Pursuing the presence of God has more to do with being searched by God than searching for Him. To know His heart and ways, we must fully embrace His knowledge of ours. Like David, let's make verses 23 & 24 our ongoing prayer as well.