



## Wednesday Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – Wonderfully made for praise & service

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Psalm 139:1,13-15

Psalm 139 is assigned to the Season of Epiphany and proclaims the wonder and beauty of our bodies. Intricately woven together, wonderfully made, known by God, formed from the depths of creation to be instruments of praise and service. Our bodies are celebrated and honored as God is incarnate not only in the Christ child, but also in us as we seek to serve God and our neighbor in a world which at this time is particularly troubled and vulnerable. The bodies and minds and imaginations of children are particularly vulnerable in this season.

As the pandemic and political unrest rages on, exploitation in all its forms is easier for those who commit it because our attention is diverted, or our spirits overwhelmed. Another text for Epiphany is the story of Samuel and Eli in 1 Samuel 1. Hannah, Samuel's mother, brings Samuel to the temple at Shiloh, and Samuel begins a long and beautiful mentorship with Eli the high priest. In the midst of the infighting of Israel's 12 tribes, Samuel grows and is nourished in body and spirit. This mentorship led to Samuel's powerful witness as a priest and a prophet who anointed Saul and then David to be kings over all Israel.

Let us keep our eyes open and our intuition keen in our ministries as we seek to protect and defend those who may be lost in the chaos of these days, that the wonder and beauty of our bodies and our beings not be withered through violence and oppression.

**Gracious God, thank you for wondrously creating all your children. Help us to celebrate your creative power in all we do, say, and think. Give us, your church, good courage that you provide what is needed for us to intervene in and prevent acts of oppression, injustice and cruelty as we seek to fulfill our mission to prevent the human trafficking of children. In your precious and holy name we pray. Amen.**

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Written by Pastor Nathan Tuff, Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania Ohio & Cherish All Children Advisory Board Member.

There's still time to join us! [Register for Online Safety for Youth](#) virtual event Jan 14, 7-8:15pm.