

# ALL THE LIGHT YOU CANNOT SEE

Blindness and Psalm 139

Sunday, Sept 4, 2016

The Very Rev. Ken Gray, St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops BC

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TEXT – Connection and awareness

- 1 **You have searched me, Lord,**  
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue  
you, Lord, know it completely.
  
- 5 You hem me in behind and before,  
**and you lay your hand upon me.**
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

TEXT – Connection and community

- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10 even there **your hand will guide me,**

your right hand will hold me fast.

**11 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,'  
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

JOHN HULL

. . . develops this insight to suggest that only a blind person, to whom **darkness and light are alike**, can share this characteristic with God and for Hull this means that 'without blind people, the religious experience of sighted people is not complete.'

Religious experience and life's discoveries - "All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel" by Anthony Doerr

"To shut your eyes is to guess nothing of blindness. Beneath your world of skies and faces and buildings exists a rawer and older world, a place where surface planes disintegrate and sounds ribbon in shoals through the air. Marie-Laure can sit in an attic high above the street and hear lilies rustling in marshes two miles away."

JOHN MILTON

. . . "God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts: who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed

And post o'er land and ocean without rest:  
They also serve who only stand and wait."

FAITH – trumps all human limitations, frustrations, duties and delights

TEXT – Knowledge and **Real Presence**

23 Search me, God, and **know my heart;**  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
24 See if there is any offensive way in me,  
**and lead me in the way everlasting.**