O God, You Search Me

Bernadette Farrell

FROM THE COLLECTION
Christ, Be Our Light
Choral Songbook #9915
CD #9917
O God, You Search Me

Based on Ps 139

BERNADETTE FARRELL

VERSES 1–3: (\textit{\textbf{q} = ca. 60})

Melody

1. O God, you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
2. You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar.
3. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, You know its meaning through and through.

(Soprano Alto)

(Tenor Bass)

(Keyboard)

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Parts for oboe and French horn are available in the songbook Christ, Be Our Light, edition 9915.
1. walk or lie down you are before me: Ever the
2. love ever-lasting you besiege me: In every
3. with me beyond my understanding: God of my

1. maker and keeper of my days.
2. moment of life or death, you are.
3. present, my past and future,

O God, You Search Me
VERSE 4: (a cappella)

4. Although your Spirit is upon me, Still I

4. search for shelter from your light. There is

4. nowhere on earth I can escape you: Even the

4. darkness is radiant in your sight.
VERSE 5:

5. For you created me and shaped me, Gave me

5. life within my mother’s womb. For the
5. wonder of who I am I praise you: Safe in your

5. hands, all creation is made new.

Fine
O God, You Search Me

Based on Ps 139

(Guitar/Vocal)

O God, you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze. When I walk or lie down you are before me:

You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar. In every moment of life or death, you are present, my past and future, too.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have known its meaning through and through. You have withstood my understanding: God of my heart.

Although your Spirit is upon me, Still I have walked and been made radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me. Gave me wonder of who I am I praise you: Safe in your embrace.

1. You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar. In every moment of life or death, you are present, my past and future, too.

2. Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, You have known its meaning through and through. You have withstood my understanding: God of my heart.

3. Although your Spirit is upon me, Still I have walked and been made radiant in your sight.

4. For you created me and shaped me. Gave me wonder of who I am I praise you: Safe in your embrace.

5. O God, you search me and you know me. All my thoughts lie open to your gaze. When I walk or lie down you are before me:
O God, you search me and you know me.

You know my resting and my rising.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,

Al though your Spirit is upon me,

For you created me and shaped me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

You discern my purpose from afar,

You have known its meaning through and through,

Still I search for shelter from your light.

Gave me life within my mother's womb.

When I walk or lie down you are before me:

And with love ever lasting you besiege me:

You are with me beyond my understanding:

There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:

For the wonder of who I am I praise you:

Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

God of my present, my past and future, too.

Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

Performance Notes

This hymn was inspired by my involvement in the liturgy and music of the National Retreat Association Conference in 1992. For the first time the conference was shared by Christians of all traditions in the British Isles.

As well as standing on its own right as a hymn, this setting could be sung between Scripture readings. Its simple form enables the psalm to find its way into the collective memory.

You sometimes might include a solo verse. Or invite different voices to sing different verses.

With a choir you can introduce SATB and even use the arrangement for Verse 5 in other verses if you wish.

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