

**“The Lord’s Prayer”**  
**By Rev. Frances Savil**  
**Sunday August 11, 2024**

**Matthew 6:7-13**

This morning we come to a prayer that I learned in elementary school and we said every morning together to start the school day.

It’s a prayer that I remember thinking about at a young age, and whether I knew it or not, it shaped me.

It was almost always said as a group, and as it begins with the words, “Our Father...” it seemed that it might have been intended to said by many together.

This prayer is prayed in this church every Sunday, and it is said several times a week in this building at different recovery group meetings.

I hope that most of us who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, have thought about this prayer.

This morning I’m going to play a 10 minute video from The Bible Project that I hope will give you some insights into this prayer that Jesus prayed, and that Jesus gave to his disciples to be prayed daily, or even three times a day as part of their daily prayer practise.

The prayer our Rabbi Jesus prayed and taught us to pray begins with the words:

Our father in heaven,  
may your name be honored.

Jesus called God “Father” often.

It is an intimate name that the Son calls his Dad.

It is a name shows that God is close, that He is the provider, and the source of our being.

Jesus invites us into His loving, intimate relationship with His Father.

It is in Jesus that we call God “our Father”, and it reminds us that we are all one in Jesus.

There is no greater, no lesser, all of us beloved children, of the one we together call “Our Father”

Paired with this close, intimate relationship with God, we are immediately reminded that God fills the heavens, God is overall, it is in God that we live and move and have our being.

And God is holy, to be hallowed, God’s name is to be honoured in all the earth.

God’s one of a kind nature and being recognized and honoured, praised and glorified.

Our Father in heaven,  
may Your name be honored.

May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done,  
as in heaven, so on earth.

God’s kingdom is marked by generosity and justice.  
Where God’s will is done, all people are loved and respected.

Love of God and love of neighbour are marks of the kingdom.

God's kingdom comes and God's will is done as God works and we work in partnership with God in our world.

This week I was given an opportunity by God to bless us others, to do a small thing, and I missed it.

I was working at 22 Wing on Wednesday and in the afternoon a cable was cut by a construction crew and the Canex store lost their computer system, so they could only take cash - no credit, and debit was available.

I always have a small amount of cash on me.

And so I was fine, I could make my purchase, but I was nudged by the Holy Spirit to leave my change \$15 with the cashier to pay the purchases of others who didn't carry cash on them.

I ignored the nudge, and carried on.

I missed the chance for God's name to be honoured more on the earth, in my community.

I missed the chance to extend God's kingdom of generosity and justice.

I did not live as I have prayed.

In every decision, every interaction, we have the opportunity to partner with God, to participate in God's kingdom coming and God's will being done here as in heaven, to live our prayer.

Then the prayer turns to the needs of today.

As God's kingdom is breaking into this world in its fullness, we pray for daily bread.

We pray daily for the needs of this day, and to see ourselves being formed in this time, as God's people who are called to trust God every day.

And then we pray that God would keep us forgiving and forgiven.

Forgiving and forgiven – in the video they showed it as breathing in and breathing out.

We learn to forgive because we are forgiven, but as we are forgiven, God calls us to let go of our hurt and anger, and even pray for the well-being of our enemies.

Then we pray; “Don’t lead us to the test, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Which The Message translates:

“Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.”

We pray for God’s help, God’s protection from the temptations and evil in this world, and the temptations and evil inside of us.

As we close our prayer, we remember that the kingdom, the power and glory and all things are in God’s good and gracious hands.

Amen.

Jesus’ disciples prayed this prayer three times a day.

Morning, noon and night.

Jesus prayed this prayer.

You might consider taking on this short prayer daily, two or even three times a day and let it shape and form you. Thanks be to God.