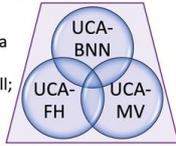




Whitehorse Uniting Cluster

The Uniting Church in Australia
Congregations of: Blackburn
North / Nunawading; Forest Hill;
and Mountview (Mitcham);
in a shared ministry together



Sunday 24th July 2022

YouTube Introit: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord 2011

Northern Baptist Association

<https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U>

Welcome

May the worship bless you

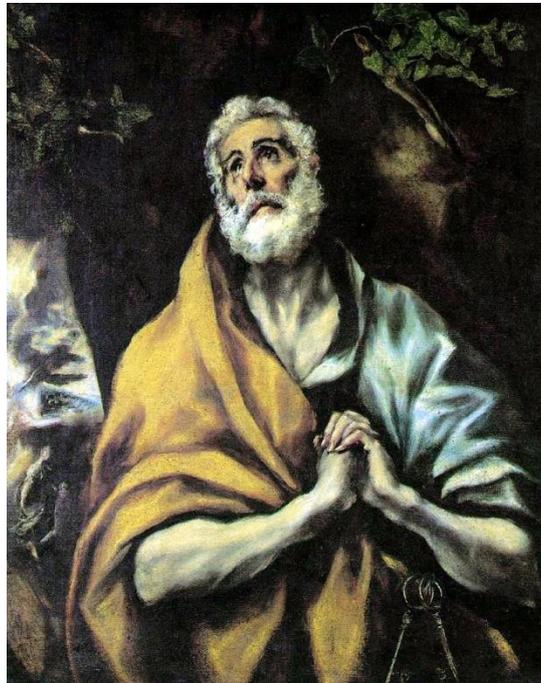


Image from Revised Common Lectionary

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Call to worship

Lord, teach us how to pray

Hallowed be thy name

Lord, teach us how to pray

Your kingdom come

Lord, teach us how to pray

Father, give us our daily bread

Prayers (©Tina Lyndon)

Adoration

Hallowed be your name Lord
Your kingdom come

Jesus Lord, forgive us
Give us grace to forgive others

Holy Spirit, come and dwell in our hearts
Bless us as we journey through life

Invocation

Come Holy Spirit Come
Come upon us today Holy Spirit

Confession

Let us come before God In silence
Asking for forgiveness and transformation

Silence

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"
THANKS BE TO GOD

The Lord is my Shepherd

2020 from BBC Songs of Praise - St John The Baptist Tideswell
 UCPC Upper Clyde Parish Church
<https://youtu.be/UAqPZQeDcFs>

Reading - Luke 11:1-13

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ²He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father,^[a] hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.^[b] ³Give us each day our daily bread.^[c] ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'^[d]

⁵And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him."⁷ And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything."⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for^[e] a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit^[f] to those who ask him!

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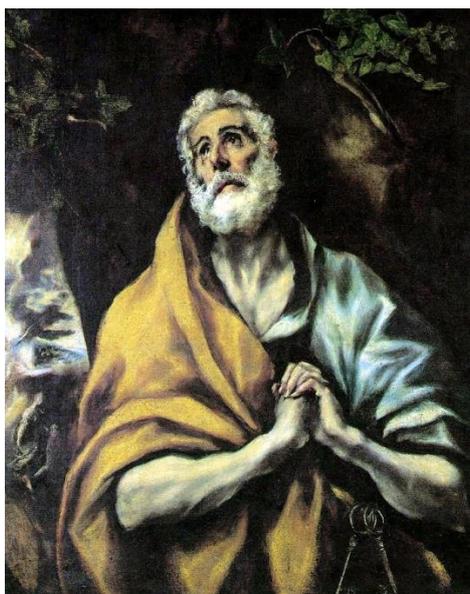


Recently my grandson, Miles, came to church with me. He watched and listened to how we model our faith. He held a hymn book because everyone else did. He stood up to sing when everyone else did. When we had candle prayers he asked for prayers for Jesus. He got it!

It was his first time in church. Now he wants to come again. That says something good about his experience of church and of our church community. It also speaks of his awareness of why we have gathered. To worship Jesus. Children read us and how we worship. They want to be part of the community, even at a young age.

Sermon – Lord, teach us how to pray

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen



El Greco – Image from Revised Standard Lectionary

An unknown disciple asked: *Lord teach us how to pray.* Jesus taught him this prayer

Father, Hallowed be your name
 Your kingdom Come
 Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins
 For we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us
 And do not bring us to the time of trial.

The Lord's Prayer speaks of all we need. I know of many people who ask for it to be included in worship and if it's not said, people ask for it to be included in worship. It is the prayer that many people want to hear as they live and as they die.

It is written into our hearts from childhood, and we want to say either the old version or new, whichever is most familiar to us. It is our favourite prayer. The prayer we say all the days of our life. It is the prayer Jesus gave us.

It has been said for over two thousand years and will be said for the next two thousand years. Said by billions and loved by all Christians, it is an eternal prayer for all believers. It begins with us reaching out to God, as our father. We call God holy and then we call on God's kingdom to come into our lives. It is a prayer of trust and surrender, where we pray for God to provide for us daily.

Then we ask for forgiveness, and this seems conditional on how we forgive. We ask God as our father to not face difficulties that cause suffering to us and to spare us from them. Suffering and forgiveness often belong together. To receive forgiveness lifts a heavy burden from our heart, where we are able to move on in life and often re-establish a relationship. To forgive often means moving beyond suffering caused by another and recognising we are just as broken and in need of forgiveness.

Jesus then teaches his disciples about persistence in prayer, even if it seems as if the door is closed to us. Persist in prayer, ask, search, knock, and we will receive, find, and the door will be opened.

Jesus tells us as we know what is good for our child, in the same way so does God know us and give us good things.

Yet the final verse of this reading is unexpected. The good gift is the Holy Spirit. We often pray for loved ones and our needs. We pray for many things, as we intercede and give thanks.

Perhaps God gives us the Holy Spirit, so we have the wisdom to know what we truly need, the love to bless others, the gifts to build up the kingdom and the grace and hope to be always grateful.

Hymn – The Lord's Prayer 2022 (a deeply moving version)

© Albert Hay Malotte 1935

(Marina s)

https://youtu.be/THLDx1Ca_Ic

Quiet moment of Reflection



Offering Prayer

(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen

Prayers of the People – John Williams

The Lord's Prayer extended

This morning I bring a change of format in our Prayers of the People. I am using 'The Lord's Prayer' as a framework to support many items flowing in to combine into a broad stream of prayer. In response to a request from his disciples, Jesus said to pray like this - to let your praying flow in this vein.

We will say together each phrase separately, then I will expand that thought.

Let us pray together, and pause.

Our Father in heaven,

Dear Lord God, although we address you as being somewhere “there” in heaven, we know that you are not afar off, but actually present with us, and that you hear us as we pray. We cannot go where you are not. Lord, your presence comforts us. In your presence, we are comfortable.

hallowed be your name,

Your name is holy throughout the whole of creation and we bow before you. May we not misuse your holy Name, ever. Your ‘Name’ is precious. We honour you as our Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

your kingdom come,

In creating us in your image you have given us freedom, the freedom to turn aside. But we have chosen to be your people, and acknowledge that you are the King, the one who rules. It is our desire that all peoples of the earth will acknowledge you and choose to rejoice in your kingship.

your will be done,

Your great gift to us is that you have a plan for us all. In being obedient to that plan, we are embracing your will. We know that your will for us is beyond our understanding. In you we trust. Help us to be obedient. Your love rests gently on us in our obedience.

on earth as in heaven.

May we seek to be daily followers of all you hold out to us, your people.

Give us today our daily bread.

For our needs, O Lord, we ask. Quell in us our wants and the desire to take more. May we care for your creation and resist stretching the resources of this land. May we redefine our needs to be only our ‘daily bread’. In feeding us, gracious God, may all be equally fed.

Forgive us our sins

We are assured that whatever we confess to you in truth, you will forgive. In your sight, dear Lord, there are no secrets. Sharpen our self assessments, so that all that is in your sight is also in our consciousness.

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Dear Father God, show us how to be true to you and our neighbours, receiving and giving in the same measure. Spur us to seek out injustice and set it right.

Save us in the time of trial

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant to us your graciousness and your understanding, so that we may repel darts of criticism and derision. May our words and acts show that your love overarches all else. Sustain us in our faith. Bless us with conviction, but interweave it with love.

and deliver us from evil.

Stay the hand of evil intent towards us. Stay the evil thought which may intrude upon us. Keep safe our children. May we all take joy in their innocence; never abusing it. Guard us from pride and all else which may separate us from you. We call to mind the needs of our friends and neighbours. Grant meaning to those who spend long hours of the night in pain or in mental anguish and bewilderment. It is our desire that you, our compassionate God, will reach out to them. *(name them now)* Grant them release.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Great God, as your Son taught us, we have asked of you to consider the needs of our friends, of our neighbours near and far and to be mindful of ourselves as we approach you in trust, for you are all we can possibly imagine, and much more, way beyond our comprehension.

now and forever.

We measure time, but, to you, O Lord God, all time is equal. We face the future, which to us is immeasurable, trusting in your everlasting gracious care.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



YouTube Hymn And can it be that I should gain 2008

Charles Wesley

BBC Songs of Praise (Broadcast 2007)

(Faboramsay)

<https://youtu.be/sQeIGbKqiw8>

Blessing

We go in Peace in the love of God in the Power of the Spirit

May the Lord Bless and Guard us

May the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us

As we bring Christ's love and peace to the world. Amen

Hymn 778: Shalom to you now – tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oqiFenpWxY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=35>

Pastoral Care Tips - Holding crosses



These crosses witness to a simple ministry that touches people's lives, profoundly.

The cross on the right was made by Perce Box who was aged in his nineties. The first few were experiments, but Perce kept at it until he perfected making crosses and made 100 or more. Over the years they were given to people who held them and prayed. Many were grieving or dying, and some were buried with their cross. My father died holding one in his hand. When I had just a few left I asked around for someone else who could work with wood to make some more. Lorraine Grant contacted her nephew, Warren, who has a business in NSW called *Timeless Edges* and he made 100 – (the cross on the left) They too are

finding homes with people who love to pray or are journeying through challenging times and need comfort. Please contact me if you would like a cross or know someone who would appreciate one.

Many thanks to Perce and Warren. Rev Tina Lyndon Ng