

## **WELCOME 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 – 15 Pentecost '19 C**

(Matthew 6:9-13) John 17:1-5 & Jude 24-25

Good morning! Welcome to worship today! Special welcome guests & visitors...especially y'all here celebrating young Ted's baptism & entry into Christ's family & God's kingdom! Doesn't get any better than that! It's our privilege & joy to serve you in worship. Today we finish our series on the Lord's Prayer...*For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.*

Some words can change your life forever: I do. You've got the job. We're pregnant. Blow into the little tube until I say "stop." Those test results don't look good. We know others

The last words of the Lord's Prayer...while not part of the original prayer in the Bible...are also life changing. *For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.* This final shout of praise & acclamation bends our hearts away from our natural self-inclination & towards God. This takes us back to the Father in heaven who created us to be like him, to live in his presence & carry out his work of love & care in this world.

Here we declare our full trust in & complete surrender to the God who controls all things, who has the power to do what he wants & who reveals his power most fully in the saving work of Jesus Christ, crucified/risen/ruling over all things.

These words are the assurance that God listens – hears – & responds to us & our needs & concerns. But even more...those very things (*Kingdom Power Glory*) are his gifts to us...We are heirs...inheritors of the highest gifts of heaven...because of Christ alive & at work in us.

We pray, *For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen...*celebrating that the Father alone is worthy of our prayer praise thanksgiving & worship and he gives us the opportunity to share with others & do for others what Christ has given so freely to us...

We'll experience & celebrate that today...as we say "Amen" – let it all be so.

**Let's pray...**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Heavenly Father, today, like every other day is yours & we simply thank you for allowing us to be here in your presence for your purpose. Bless us now in this place. Draw us more deeply into your kingdom, stronger in willing obedience, bold in displaying your awesomeness, & joyfully delighting in you as your family.

Let it be so today for your glory & our witness to the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen!

## 15 PENTECOST '19 C – FROM HIS FULLNESS: THE FATHER'S WORTHINESS

**FAITH CHAT:** 1. Three things you are thankful for this week.

2. When you pray, *"For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever."* what does that mean for you?

3. What would be the most challenging characteristic of God for you to describe or understand?

"I do it myself!" The famous last words of every early attempt at independence. It isn't just milk pouring...think shoe-tying bike-riding dog-walking...but sometimes we big people have about that same "I do it myself!" "success" with our jobs, marriages, \$\$, parenting, friendships...I don't know about your life but in mine there is sometimes a good bit of "spilled milk & mess" all over the floor...Most of you know I'm the chaplain for the VRA so I often pick up 1<sup>st</sup> responder news stories...guy in CA was on one of the elevated roadways & lost control of his car, bounced off the retaining wall, another car & then crashed through the guard rail & got stuck dangling about 15m above the road below...hanging there with his car <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> over the edge. He was well & truly in danger & a bunch of folks got out to try & keep his car from plunging off to that sudden stop & they grabbed on to whatever they could & tried to pull him to safety. No such luck. One guy had some ropes in his car & they wrapped them around the rear axle & tied it off to the light pole on the other side of the road & when the emergency services & tow trucks arrived they finally we able to pull his car back over the ledge & then cut him loose from the crushed car. He wasn't hurt but the whole time these 20 or so people are pulling his car back to safety & cutting him out of the wreckage he's screaming at them...*I can get out myself! I don't need your help!*

We are so accustomed to defining ourselves by our accomplishments, abilities, & reputations (acquire, achieve, accumulate) we just live "I do it myself" despite all the evidence that in many many instances...we can't...

It's funny...When you think about the life of Jesus & the men/women who hung out w/ him for 3 years...the only time they specifically asked him to teach them how to do something...was praying. *Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord teach us to pray like John taught his disciples"* That's how Lk prefaces Jesus teaching his prayer. When he gave them authority over evil spirits they didn't ask "How?" He sent them out to preach & heal & they didn't ask for a tutorial or a few practice sessions. I reckon as often as they were in little boats on big water I'd have asked him to teach me how to still a storm...or to multiply food... raise the dead? Nope. *BUT* they wanted specific guidance on prayer... *"Lord, teach us to pray..."* So he did. Author Max Lucado says, he didn't give them a doctrine or a lecture but "a quotable, repeatable, portable, prayer"...

What Jesus wanted his closest friends & everyone who came after that to know... was that prayer isn't the right of the religious...not the privilege of the pious...or the exclusive advantage of the approved. Prayer is a conversation God wants to have with you with me...all of us...created in his image to live in his presence & to carry out his work of love & care in this world. Prayer's not supposed to be complicated/convoluted. It's a conversation & it is to be carried out in confidence...confidence that the Father wants to hear your voice...that he will listen...that he does respond according to his purpose for this world & your life...that he does desire to bring the very best of his blessing to you.

In a world where heartache/holocaust regularly show up & death/despair leave a trail of tears, God wants you/me to pray with confidence/conviction/certainty that what the Father will finally bring is good & leads to our fullness, wholeness, & restoration to unbroken relationship with him & each other. In a world where "I do it myself!" is a proven failed strategy for so much of life...Jesus invites us to yield...to surrender our efforts at being masters of the universe & delight in being children of the Father.

*"For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen."* Oddly enough, it's probable Jesus never included those words as he gave this prayer to his friends. If you look at Mt 6:9-13 or Lk 11:1-4 they're not there. Where did they come from? It's cool...scholars tells us the early church adopted the habit of finishing their prayers with shouts of praise. Their worship would end with cheers & hallelujahs. They remembered King David had wanted to build a grand temple for worship but God said, "No...not you but your son." So David gathered all the construction materials before he died. He was determined his life would end with the Temple ready to go... So when all the essential building stuff was accumulated he led his nation in worship & finished by praying: *"O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever & ever! Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, & the majesty! Everything in the heavens & on earth is yours, O Lord, & this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things."* - 1 Chron 29:10-11

Look/sound familiar? The early church delighted in praying what Jesus gave them & ended with an adapted form David's prayer honouring God declaring his worthiness his awesomeness & his rule above & over all things. They praised the Father that he was the One who sent his Son to rescue & rebuild all creation by his life death & resurrection. They praised God in the raw joy of those who knew this world & its maddening mess of beauty & brutality of wonder & wickedness would one day be reborn in the grandeur & glory & greatness & goodness God had intended all along.

They surrendered their efforts at being masters of the universe & found unending delight in being children of the heavenly Father. Dr Albert Winn was a professor scholar pastor in the US some years back & he called the “doxology,” this ending shout of praise, the Church’s great “nevertheless.” He wrote: “Yes, the world is laced with sadness & bombarded by tragedy. Yes, the world is riddled with evil, famine, hunger, suffering, war, bitterness, despair & discord. Nevertheless, the Church still prays...” Nevertheless the church releases itself into the sure hands of God who alone rules forever & has promised to one day make all things new. Nevertheless we rejoice in who God is & in the power He holds working out a perfect, eternal plan in this world. Nevertheless we reject the lie that we will conquer every frontier under our own wisdom or might - that we know best in all things & we humbly ask for what the Father knows we need & what will yield only good multiplied through our hands. Nevertheless...we remember that in the risen/ruling Jesus Christ “...in all these things (trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, danger, peril) we are more than conquerors through him who loved us...” – Rom 8:37 – the last word for us is in Christ life w/o end & joy w/o restraint & love beyond all measure.

*“For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.”* Oddly enough, those are also the Father’s gifts to us...*Don’t be afraid, little flock. Your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. – Lk 12:32*

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. – Eph 3:20 “the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead...” – Eph 1:19-20*

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. – Eph 1:3* God holds nothing back from us that accords with his will in this world or in us...nothing...

*“You know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. We pleaded with you, encouraged you, & urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom & glory. – 1 Thess 2:11-12*

*As all of us reflect the Lord’s glory with faces that are not covered with veils, we are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. – 2 Cor 3:18*

*For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.* This final shout of praise & acclamation bends our hearts away from our natural self-inclination & towards God. This takes us back to the Father in heaven who created us to live in unbroken relationship of love with him & those around us. Here we declare our full trust in & complete surrender to the God who holds all things & who reveals his power most fully in the saving work of Jesus Christ, crucified/risen/ruling over all things. These words are the assurance that God listens – hears – & responds to us & our needs & concerns. But even more...those very things (*Kingdom Power Glory*) are his gifts to us...We are heirs...inheritors of the highest gifts of heaven because of Christ alive & at work in us... and he gives us the opportunity to share with others & do for others what Christ has given so freely to us...

So here’s what we’re going to do...I invite you to do for the next 30 days...I invite you to pray together for the next 30 days. Here’s how we’ll do it. You heard me mention Pastor Max Lucado earlier...In his great little book *before amen*, he offers a short prayer that you & I can use as a starter... It looks like this:

Father,  
you are good.  
I need help.  
They need help.  
Thank you.  
In Jesus’ name. Amen

In a bit you’ll receive a little business-card-sized take-home gift. On one side is the Lord’s Prayer. On the other is that prayer. In less time than it takes to boil a kettle; pray the Lord’s Prayer & then turn the card over & have a conversation w/ God...Father, you are good. I need help...tell him what you need. He already knows, but he wants to have that conversation. They need help...& you know you have family or friends who need help...If you’re a regular worshipper here, pray for your Steering Team & their families. Pray for Sam & Katie-Ellen & Ted. Pray for me & Leonie & the girls. Pray for our work here in this city...pray for our city...Thank you. You started today with 3...surely you can do that daily. In Jesus’ name...Jesus says he stands in the Father’s presence pleading for us...talking to God about what’s in play in your life & in mine...releasing the Holy Spirit to shape & mould & bring joy & restrain us in our worst...He promised that when we ask in his name according to his will...lives change/this world changes/we are changed... Amen. Let it be so...let your will transform us your power take hold in us your rule over all things define us. Twice a day (morning & evening) for the next 30 days & if you want... please let me know how it goes.

All the power of these priceless gifts from your Heavenly Father are yours when you yield your life to his calling and plan. All the glory and honour is his, when the fullness of his life is revealed in and through you. Let's pray with that in mind...Father, you alone are worthy of worship, praise and thanksgiving. You alone claim us in love, fill us with power, and flood us with joy. Let it be so now that every heart is drawn to you and every life transformed by you. Let it be so now that we receive the blessing of life that never ends and is never diminished by the struggles of this world. Bring us at last to you in your kingdom, by your power for your glory. Let it be so through Jesus Christ...Amen.