



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit



Sunday 27th July 2025: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is “The Lord’s prayer”

Prepared by Jacky Woor

Opening Words

Come let us sing to our God,
Come let us pray to our Creator,
Come let us worship Jesus the Christ,
Come let us be transformed by the Spirit.
Come with me, come wander,
Amen.

Hymn 20 Be still for the presence of the Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOCfPiLOvC4>

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now,
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord,
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord,
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord,
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

Readings: Psalm 138; Luke 11:1-120

Hymn 529 Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire

Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire,
uttered or unexpressed,
the motion of a hidden fire
that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
the falling of a tear,
the upward glancing of an eye
when none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
that infant lips can try;
prayer the sublimest strains that reach
the majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner’s voice
returning from false ways,
while angels in their songs rejoice,
And cry: ‘The sinner prays!’

Prayer is the Christians vital breath,
the Christian’s native air,
our watchword at the gates of death;
We enter heaven with prayer.

O you by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer yourself have trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!

Message:

Throughout history people have always prayed in some form or another. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them as John had taught his followers, it must have been because John did it in a special way. I doubt if the disciples realized what they were about hear!

Looking at the Lord's Prayer, as we call it today, there are many different angles to look at. Jesus starts by saying Our Father, something that none of the disciples, nor the other people listening, would have thought of referring to God as. He saying that God is not someone distant, but close like a parent. Speak as you would when talking to your earthly father, maybe not so easy for some people. He goes onto to say "Thy Kingdom come" asking that God's will, His way of living, be for all people. That the world would be an image of Heaven – full of peace throughout. A much needed society in those days, just as it is today.

"Give us this day our daily bread" – The need at that time was not only for physical food but the spiritual food also, again just as it is today. In many parts of the world we see starvation, yet in other parts there is food being wasted – we should be sharing not wasting. We are also asked to think about our sins – we all have them – we hold grudges, we want what others have, we only think about ourselves many times, not of others. Just as the followers of Jesus did, they also needed to learn to follow the Commandments (I always think that this prayer is really based on them) we need to obey the law, think of others and be willing to give forgiveness as well as receive it.

"And lead us not into temptation" really goes with the previous part, when we think about what we truly need to live, and being ready to share what we have. Jesus was being really radical in His approach to teaching. This prayer has since that time been used by congregations, and individuals at home. Often when we are feeling low, saying this prayer can help us to realize we are not alone, that God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is near not far away!

Jacky Woor (LP Central Norfolk Circuit)

Prayers of intercession

If you would like to, I invite you to turn one of your hands so that your palm faces upwards.

Use your fingers on the other hand to draw paths or lines across your palm and hand.

Focus on the sense of movement, of travel. Perhaps slow down or speed up your movement. Keep doing this as we pray.

God who is with me on the journey, we hear about how you have journeyed beside people who have come before us, Walking beside them on the journey.

We hear in the bible, and through the lives of people who have followed your way, how your steadfast love, goodness, faithfulness and peace have shaped the path they have travelled with you.

Help us to take confidence that the path of your goodness is one that is well trodden.

Pause your movement and keep your finger still on your hand.

God who is beside us in every moment, I confess that I can sometimes feel disorientated.

It feels like I can get lost on my journey with you, and struggle to see the way ahead.

It sometimes feels like the world around me has shifted and changed, and that the things that once felt familiar and confident are harder to remember.

Help me to remember that in this moment you remain beside me.

Help me to trust that if I turn towards you, you will meet me with the gift of full life, that I may be restored in you.

Move your finger around your hand again.

God who goes before me, shape my path with your generous love.

Help me to look out for signs of your character in the places, landscapes and people around me.

Show me that your support will always be there for me, that your faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and your righteousness will look down on me from the sky.

Even when I do not know every twist and turn, up and down of the path ahead, revive my trust that you will faithfully guide my way. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our father who art in heaven

Hymn 531 What a friend we have in Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2skxuowcaY>

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Blessing

Until that moment which Wesley describes as 'casting our crowns before him, lost in wonder love and praise', until heaven finally calls us home, we have a job to do, a role to play in bringing love and hope into a broken world. Let us go out and do that job this week.

Amen.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.