

Sunday Worship on July 27, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Christine Tian)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 328 This is my Father's world
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 442 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Genesis 18:20-32
- Second reading: Psalm 138 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 11:1-13
- Sermon: **Lord, teach us to pray**
- Hymn BOP 384 O Breath of live, come sweeping through us
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 746 What a friend we have in Jesus

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

We come before God with thanks and praise.

We will praise God for God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

We bow before God in worship.

We will worship God, for the glory of the Lord is great.

We lift up our prayers to God with confidence.

We have faith that God answers our prayers and increases our strength.

Praise song – BOP 328 This is my Father's world

Prayer of Adoration

Ever present God, we seek and you offer. We ask and you give.

We knock and you open the door.

Ever gracious God, you hear the requests of your people and in your goodness, you answer.

In Christ, you offer the gifts of new life and hope to all who seek your blessing.

Through your Holy Spirit, you pray within us, even when we cannot find words ourselves.

Receive our praise and our prayers this day, O God, and draw us into your holy presence, so that your love will transform us to serve you in the world you love.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

Ever faithful God, quickly we forget the gifts we have received from your grace; instead of giving thanks, we ask for more. We complain about what we lack and fail to trust your generosity. We refuse others the forgiveness we seek for ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Transform our hearts and reshape our desires to reflect your goodness in the way we live.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: God is generous and merciful, he's ready to forgive, and he's offering us new life in Christ Jesus. Accept God's gift of forgiveness and share this gift with others.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. (*Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.*)

Praise song – BOP 442 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Genesis 18:20-32
- Second reading: Psalm 138 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 11:1-13

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Lord, teach us to pray

Prayer. What is your prayer like?

I used to pray for my children every morning and night. But, it became like a moment of silent punishment, so I stopped. Now, whenever they ask, I pray for them. Usually, night time blessing before they sleep. I still want to teach them prayer, but it's still in process.

Today, the disciples of Jesus asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

It is humble and simple. The disciples were with Jesus for some time. They ate with Jesus, walked with Jesus, saw Jesus performing miracles, and assisted Jesus when he taught crowds. This request “teach us to pray” tells us that prayer is not something comes naturally. Even the disciples of Jesus needed help to pray. They were willing to learn to pray.

What about us? When I pray with my children at night, sometimes I ask them to pray. Their prayers are like “thank you God for computer games. Thank you for swimming time. Thank you for toys.

Thank you for candies...”

You know what I am saying. It's great that they don't ask for more toys or more candies, but prayer is more than listing the things we like.

Prayer is relationship. Prayer is learned. It is formed in relationship. It deepens in practice.

When Jesus taught prayer, he started his prayer with the word, "**Father.**"

This original **Aramaic, Abba, is something like Papa, Dad.** It's not distant or formal. Jesus' first word, Father, is a word of closeness, intimacy, and safety.

Jesus is telling us, "**You are not praying to a cold force in the sky. You are not praying to a powerful and distant emperor.** //

You are praying to your dad. Your good, loving, and listening dad.

Before we even ask anything, we are reminded who we are and who we are speaking to. This sets the tone of our prayer.

We do not have to earn the right to pray. We don't need to be approved to be heard. We don't have to get in the line to come to God. We don't need to impress our good good Father.

We simply come to God as a beloved child of God.

Imagine your child (or imaginary child), whether they are big or small, if they comes to you and asks favours trusting you would listen to them because of your love, then how would you feel? With a fact that they know your love will make you smile. Your heart will be fulfilled with joyous and gladness.

When we come to our Heavenly Father, God feels the same way. God loves you no matter what you've done, no matter what you feel about yourself. God simply embraces you with his love. Trust his love. Come to God. He welcomes you always.

Prayer is priority. Prayer teaches us the right priority. Through prayer we learn that we should seek God's kingdom first. "**Your kingdom come.**"

Before we bring our needs, Jesus invites us to focus on God's purposes. Prayer is not just a way to get what we want. **It's how we align ourselves with what God wants.**

Yes, Jesus teaches us to pray for our daily bread. **V3, "Give us each day our daily bread."**

It is important. God knows our needs. God welcomes us when we come to him with our needs. BUT, first, Jesus invites us to be part of something bigger. It is the coming of God's kingdom. God's justice, God's peace, and God's reign in our hearts and our world.

So, just like The Lord's Prayer, when we pray, let us first seek God's heart's desire. And then, let us come to God with our needs.

Prayer includes confession and grace.

V4, "Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us."

Our Lord's prayer version reads, **"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."**

Prayer is not just asking. It is confessing. It is a space for honesty, where we name our failures and receive grace from God. **But Jesus links that grace to how we treat others. We are forgiven people; and that means we are also forgiving people.**

Forgiveness in prayer humbles us. It keeps us tender. Forgiveness in prayer prevents prayer from becoming a self-righteous ritual and instead, it turns prayer into a place of transformation.

In our relationships, is there someone we need to forgive today in prayer?

Is there something we need to bring into the light before God?

We need tremendous courage to ask forgiveness from someone.

In prayer, God will give us grace and courage, so that we can practice what we need in our daily life.

Prayer teaches us to become persistent and bold.

Jesus tells a strange parable. A man knocks on his friend's door at midnight asking for bread. At first, the friend resists; but eventually, he gives in.

Jesus is not saying that God is reluctant like this friend. Jesus is saying this.

If even a tired, grumpy friend will eventually help you when you ask persistently, how much more your loving Father?

Jesus teaches us to ask, seek, and knock with persistence and boldness.

Prayer is not a one-time shot. It's continual engagement. And **our boldness is not rooted in how spiritual we feel. It's rooted solely in God's openness to us.**

How soon do we give up in prayer? Do we feel like we are nagging to God?

Let us come to God with boldness and persistence in our faith.

Prayer teaches us to trust the heart of God. Jesus ends today's passage with this beautiful image.

“Though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

We may not always get what we expect in prayer. **HOWEVER, we are always heard. We are always given what we truly need.**

The greatest gift is NOT the yes answer from God. It is the GIVER. God gives us the Holy Spirit. God's presence, his power, and his guidance.

When we pray, how do we see God? Do we acknowledge God's goodness?

Trust that God's heart is good. God wants to give his children the best of the best! He pours out himself to us.

“Lord, teach us to pray.” The disciples' request is our request today.

Jesus did not teach us some kind of magical formula. Jesus gives us something better. **It is a way of approaching God with honesty, faith, and trust.**

It will take time to master prayer. We need to learn prayer continuously. There is always more to learn, more depth to discover, more grace to receive.

Jesus is our Saviour, but at the same time, he is our teacher. So, let us come to our Jesus every day asking him to teach us to pray.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

Prayer for the people:

Gracious God, thank you for being our Father, our close dad and abba. You are near, loving, and always listening. Thank you for the gift of prayer, not as a burden but as an invitation into your presence. Teach us to pray, not just with words, but with hearts that seek you. Align our lives with your kingdom. Help us forgive, as we have been forgiven. Give us the courage to ask, seek, and knock boldly and persistently, trusting that you are good. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and shape us into people who walk closely with you.

Loving Lord, we lift up the needs of our congregation today. For those who are hurting, bring comfort. For those who are sick, bring healing. For those who are lost, bring direction. For those who feel far from you, bring your presence close.

Guide our church in your ways. Help us to be a praying people, listening for your voice, and moved by your Holy Spirit.

Especially, we have our Annual General Meeting today. Show your mercy and grace and your guidance.

We pray for the world. We remember its wounds, its division, and its pain. Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

God responds to our needs and requests with great generosity. Such is God's great love. Let us share God's love with others through the offering we present this day.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

(BOP #457, Now thank we all our God Vs. 1)

Offering prayer:

Generous God, we offer you our gifts, thankful that your love is overflowing. Bless these gifts so that your love will flow through them to meet the needs of those who cry out to you and to us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 746 What a friend we have in Jesus

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

God invites us to pray, to come to his presence, and to align our desires with God's desires.

When we come to God in prayer, he embraces us. He fills us. He waits for us. When there are too much noise, we need to focus. We need to discern. This is why we need to come to God persistently. There are too many voices around us. Let us focus on God persistently and boldly trusting his love for each of us. God welcomes you always.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.