

# Workshop — the Lord's Prayer (Sunday 2 May 2021)

Several pairs of ideas here: 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 6 and 7, 8 and 9.

## 1. Our Father in heaven,

- We start by remembering who God is.
- It's not by accident that this is the first thing.
- We start by remembering his goodness and his greatness.

## 2. May your name be kept holy.

- Remind ourselves that although God is our father, he's not just a pal.
- "His ways are not our ways" — God's communicable and incommunicable attributes.

## 3. May your Kingdom come soon.

- Looking forward to a better world than this one. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4)

## 4. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

- What happens here until that great day? How much can we bring Heaven down?
- Prayer about politics, social issues, natural disasters, health issues. COVID.

## 5. Give us today the food we need,

- Very practical prayers, and very personal. Unashamed to simply ask for things.
- Notably, this is about today. ("Don't worry about tomorrow", Matthew 6:34)

## 6. And forgive us our sins,

- This is important; but look how far down the list it comes. We start with God, not ourselves.

## 7. As we have forgiven those who sin against us.

- Always comes with "forgive us" — e.g. Matthew 6:14–15, straight after the Lord's Prayer.
- Remember as we pray this that "forgive" doesn't mean "pretend it doesn't matter".

## 8. And don't let us yield to temptation,

- Follows on from praying for forgiveness: we don't want to have to do that again.
- "The world, the flesh and the devil" in the *Book of Common Prayer*: this covers the first two.

## 9. But rescue us from the evil one.

- We are in a battle (e.g. Ephesians 6).
- "He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

## 10. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- Not in most manuscripts, but a good way to end.
- We started with who God is; now we finish the same way.