

Luke 11:1-13

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."

He said to them, "When you pray, say: 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."

And 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; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' 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.' 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. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If 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 to those who ask him!"

You, the Christ, are the only way
WE HAVE NO OTHER

I heard a preacher say recently that hope is a revolutionary patience; let me add that so is being a writer. Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

"Help" is a prayer that is always answered. It doesn't matter how you pray--with your head bowed in silence, or crying out in grief, or dancing. Churches are good for prayer, but so are garages and cars and mountains and showers and dance floors. Years ago I wrote an essay that began, "Some people think that God is in the details, but I have come to believe that God is in the bathroom."

Anne Lamott

We have been in Luke's Gospel in recent weeks, the Common Lectionary is serving up readings from Luke 9 all the way to Luke 19 this summer and fall, a section of Luke which can be described as Jesus' steady movement toward Jerusalem and his fate there.

This movement of Jesus is noted back in Luke 9 when Luke describes Jesus as "setting his face toward Jerusalem." He has a mission. He has a calling. He's set his face, he's clear about the way in which he wants to give his life as gift to Israel and to humanity and he's clear it may very well cost him his life. He's set his face to all this.

Pretty powerful and compelling stuff-----and it behooves any preacher to lay this language at the feet of the gathered faithful and to ask "upon what have you set YOUR face?" Is there a mission? Is there a calling? Is there a cause upon your life? To whom or for what purpose are you desiring to gift your life?

It had become clear to Jesus' closest friends, his Disciples, that there was a calling upon Jesus' life, a cause. This surely must have been an aspect of their curiosity about him and their attraction to him... this teacher, this sage, this person who sometimes fasts and sometimes parties, this intriguing storyteller has a powerful clarity about who he is and what he wants to offer the world. Where is all that coming from? In today's text, they latch onto an insight. They are watching Jesus in prayer. Is prayer feeding all of this passion and purpose? If Jesus is doing it, it must be significant and consequential. "Teach us to pray" they ask.

And he is happy to oblige-----because he knows they are going to have to become deeply prayerful to live into all the fullness of God's purposes for them.

He gives them some simple language, some phrasing and themes to play with. But beyond this----a crucial aspect of prayer must be emphasized from the outset. He tells them a story about persistence.

As if to say----set your faces to this. Prayer is something you have to set your face to. With the story he orients them to a proper sense of what prayer is about. Your job is to knock on the door and be persistent, consistent, regular. Ask, seek, knock. But the whole transaction, if you will, is God's to determine, to shape. What will come of this transaction is wonderful. Don't worry so much about that as about persistence, resolve, steadfastness, resoluteness.

"If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father, Abba, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"

Three things:

Do you notice how he calls his best friends, his closest compatriots, evil? And they don't say, "who you calling evil?" But there is no harshness in his voice here that we can detect. The tone of the entire conversation is loving, pastoral, compassionate. But the reality here is that "you are evil" he says. Not incorrigibly so. Not hopelessly so. The point is made because Jesus wants them to be clear about why prayer is so crucial and why persistence is so crucial. Because, # 2, what the Abba Father gives is the Holy Spirit... the crucial and necessary

remedy to evil. What they need to set their faces on is praying the Holy Spirit to purify their hearts.

Psalm 51:

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

“Deliver us from evil” we pray when we pray this prayer here. Not so much the evil outside us, as within us.

And point #3-----how much more will your heavenly father give. Jesus, so joyful here, so excited for his disciples here. Into your persistent steady asking and seeking and knocking God is going to pour more of Godself than you can possibly imagine. You think you know how to give good gifts? You have no idea what God can give, what God will give to those who ask.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLINES OF CHRIST

July 28, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Risen Christ, You breathe your Holy Spirit into us

AND YOU TELL US "PEACE BE YOURS"

Open our hearts to your peace. Let it penetrate the rocky ground of our resistance

MAY YOUR SACRED WIND CARRY US DEEPLY INTO THE MYSTERY OF YOUR PRESENCE

Lighting of the Candles

"Whatever enraptures the heart is a ray from my friend." Rumi

90 Come Christians Join to Sing

We Welcome One Another as Christ

354 Seek Ye First

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Quietude is indeed joy." Wang Wei

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own

"Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Search us God, and know our hearts

SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN US, AND LEAD US TO THE WAY EVERLASTING

THE GOSPEL LUKE 11: 1-13

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "Deliver Us From Evil" Rev. Rob Carr

Loving God, we tremble on the edge of a maybe. A first time, a new thing, a tentative start.

And the wonder of it lays its finger on our lips. Amen

Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving

Vocal Solo Ramie Beck

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

403 In Remembrance of Me

Kindle in our hearts, O God, the flame of love that never ceases

THAT IT MAY BURN IN US, GIVING LIGHT TO OTHERS

Fill our hearts with knowledge of yourself

AND OUR MOUTHS WITH YOUR PRAISE, THAT FROM EAST TO WEST

ALL MAY SING YOUR GLORY WITH ONE VOICE AND ACCORD

In Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord

Welcome to the Table

The Words of Institution

Redeeming God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness

WE WERE FAR OFF UNTIL YOU BROUGHT US NEAR

AND OUR HANDS ARE EMPTY UNTIL YOU FILL THEM

As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy Spirit

UNITE US IN CHRIST AND BRING US TO YOUR KINGDOM

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

Take a piece of the loaf, and dip it in the cup as it is offered. The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation. Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option.

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

495 Weave 2X

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

AND TO LIVE OUR LIVES SO THAT THOSE TO WHOM LOVE IS A STRANGER

MAY FIND IN US GENEROUS FRIENDS

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Saturday 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's
Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

UPCOMING

MUSIC SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

JEFF Nunn is ready to receive suggestions for hymns to be sung that day. Feel free to email or text him OR use the basket provided on the piano. Last year's Music Sunday was a hit. Invite a friend!

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM

Interactive Workshop led by Lori Hall
Part One being offered again on Friday, September 6th 6PM to 9PM and
Saturday September 7th 9AM to 2PM
Sign ups will begin in August!
Part Two will be offered sometime this Fall.

CHERITH BROOK SEEKING ITEMS

such as small men's and women's undies, sugar, razors, bike locks, gauze pads and medical tape, for their friends experiencing homelessness.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Join us on Sunday August 18 at Smithville Lake for the Baptism of our good friend Howard Dolginoff. Directions to our usual place at the lake will be provided at the date approaches.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Our annual brown bag lunch celebration with a blessing of backpacks and recognition of teachers is scheduled for August 18. Wonderful opportunity to invite a friend!