

Weekly Prayer Letter

Week of 7 March 2021

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is not some pious rhetoric that we intone Sunday after Sunday. Times change, but this timeless prayer, which I first learned when I was some three years old, has remained constant. Whichever peoples I am with, this prayer breaks down geographical, historical, congregational walls. "Our Father ..." when prayed by the people of God draws us into the concerns of God's own heart.

I realize though that for some, the word "father" may carry a lot of baggage, and we can project that baggage onto God. But the God Jesus invited us to pray to is not unapproachable, busy, disinterested, nor abusive (be it physically, emotionally, or spiritually – especially in these times in which we live). When Jesus said to pray, "Our Father", He was letting us know that whilst we belong to others so we don't pray at the expense of others and their needs, Jesus also wanted us to remember that God has so wondrously chosen to be our "Abba" – a Hebrew word for "Papa". Abba, Father is a tender word of closeness, nurture, love, safety. We can climb into the arms of Jesus' own Father and address not some majestic impersonal force, but Someone whose love sings over you, takes great delight in you, saves you. He is ever present with you. He holds you close. He will carry you.

When you pray "Our Father" though, never forget He is in Heaven, of another reality, our transcendent Abba, and you and I are infinitesimally small specks in the universe. But when we turn our gaze to "Our Father", it pulls the reality of Heaven down to our own address. As someone has asked, may I also ask – What is it like for you to have Jesus' own Father as yours as well?

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Prayer Pointers

- 1. LENT – a season of preparation and repentance**
This Lent, let's take time to be holy and centre our lives on Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us. Let's return to Him with all our heart.
 - Ask Him to rekindle our first love for Him and turn of our heart of stone into heart of flesh.
 - Ask Him to renew in us a right spirit; grant us wisdom to discern in our lives what we must cease and what we must start, what we must lay down and what we must take up.
 - Ask Him to grant us grace to deepen our walk with Him so that we may walk this renewed life with thanksgiving, joy and faithfulness through Christ our Lord.
- 2. Faith members**
Pray that every member of Faith will go deep and grow deep in the Lord; go out and go far in the name of Jesus; stand strong and stand firm in the faith; and love God and love one another.
- 3. On-site worship services**
Pray that the Lord will deposit in the hearts of Faith members the desire to attend the on-site worship services on Sunday; to value the importance of corporate worship; and to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth at the on-site worship services.
- 4. Small Group Leaders and Champions Training (SGLCT) on 13 March**
Pray that the participants will learn well from the training in the philosophy and practice of the Small Group ministry and be able to implement what they have learnt in their respective small groups.
- 5. Faith Church Camp from 12 - 13 June 2021**
With the current pandemic situation, the Church Camp will not be held overseas but locally. Pray that the Lord will download creative ideas to the Camp Committee to organise the new norm of the camp programmes to achieve the objective of "One Mission."

We Are Here For You!

- Perhaps you are going through a challenging time, and you need someone to pray with you, our pastoral team is here and ready to journey with you.
- Even though we may not be able to be with you in person, we can still reach you via telephone and other means.
- You may submit any Prayer Requests online via our church website at <https://www.faithmc.sg/care-help/prayer-requests/>.