

“COURAGEOUS FAITH: PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER”
“Our Father, Holy is Your Name”

This Sunday we begin a new sermon series “Courageous Faith: Praying the Lord’s Prayer.” In our culture, the New Year offers a “re-do,” a chance to make resolutions and tend to all those things we meant to do throughout the previous year. In the Christian tradition, every day, every week is an invitation to “re-do,” to come to worship, confess our sins and shortcomings and experience God’s unfailing grace and mercy. The prayer that Jesus taught is one of the ways we grow as disciples, leaning into God’s grace and trusting God’s love for us. Each week there will be a slightly different version for this study guide to help us pray this prayer more deeply. This sermon series will invite us to recommit our lives and our hearts to Christ, who has come to offer light, life and love. What better way to begin a new year and a new commitment than to look to the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus identifies with us and invites us into living out our faith with everything we are and everything we have been given. As we begin a new year, we were invited to remember our baptism and to live into our life unafraid. ---
Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Our Father, Holy is Your Name”**

Eternal Spirit, Source of all that is and ever shall be, Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven. May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples, and may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion. May we find the bread that we need for today, and for the hurts we cause one another, may we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive. In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong; when life seems overwhelming, help us to endure; and thus from the yoke of sin deliver us. May you reign in the power of human love, now and forever. Amen. Adapted from the prayer book of the Anglican Church of New Zealand

Study Guide

Monday, January 14, 2019 Mark 1: 4-8

The gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels and the most succinct. The author doesn't waste words and unlike Matthew and Luke, spares no space for birth stories. The gospel of John waxes poetic about creation and Christ being part of it, but again no nativity stories. Mark gets right to the point in the first verse: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." These next few verses introduce John calling for people to change their hearts and lives. John promised the one who was coming would baptize with more than water, this one would give the Spirit. In the United Methodist Church's understanding of baptism, it is a marking of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' prayer, acknowledging God as creator, as Father, is an invitation to allow God's Spirit to work in us and through us. *How do you remember your baptism and acknowledge God's Spirit at work in you?*

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 Mark 1: 9-11

Jesus is introduced to us in Mark's gospel at the river Jordan. He came from Nazareth but it is in baptism that we are introduced to Jesus as God's beloved son, the one in whom God is "well pleased." In the Lord's Prayer, we begin saying "*Our Father, who are art in heaven, Holy is your name.*" That opening statement sets for us the context not just for a creator God, who is all powerful and holy, but a God who names us and claims us as children. "My beloved Son," comes down upon Jesus in his baptism. The name in Aramaic or Hebrew for God, would have been "Abba," or Daddy. It is the name for a God who delights in God's children. This Daddy, is delighting in Jesus and when we are baptized, delights in us as well. *Today say the Lord's Prayer and instead of Father, use Daddy, Dad or Papa. Trust in the love that God's has for you as God's beloved child.*

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 Isaiah 43:1-2

In the second part of Isaiah (beginning with chapter 40), a restoration theme is dominant. The people of Israel are tired, overwhelmed and the word of Isaiah brings hope. In Chapter 42, we have the first of the Servant Songs (which describes the Messiah or the Christ and in the Christian tradition describes Jesus for us.) These two verses remind the people of Israel that they are loved and precious. No matter what might happen in their lives, God is there and calls them by name. That is real love, love that walk through the fire, the waters and the craziness, a love that withstands the most powerful storms. It is the love that Jesus shares as he is baptized and called Beloved by the Spirit of God. You are also beloved of God. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus calls God *Abba or Father*. This intimate name for God reminds us that we are loved and God wants a deeper relationship with us. *How will you deepen your relationship with our Abba today?*

Thursday, January 17, 2019 Isaiah 43: 3-4

The prophet gives witness that God is God! "*You are precious in my sight and I love you.*" There are no more powerful words than God giving voice to how precious each person is and how each are beloved. Recalling Jesus' baptism and call, how do you experience the love of God? Do you really believe you are precious in God's sight and honored and loved? God is calling you, by name, to live out the love you have been given. *Today you are invited to say yes to God's love and God's call in your life.*

Friday, January 18, 2019 Isaiah 43: 5-7

The prophet reminds the people that out of love God will bring them home and will restore them. Their families will be reunited and they will know God's grace and love in a real way. I think Jesus promises us that kind of hope and love through the community of faith. Jesus invites us to love one another and in loving one another, we experience and see God, our Father, in a new way. How do you see the God who Jesus addresses in the Lord's prayer active in the world and in the church? How can the call of Jesus be made real in the community and through the actions of our lives?