

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)

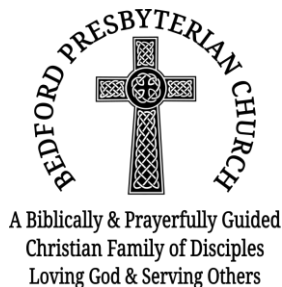


## Week of October 8<sup>th</sup>

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.



*Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and*

*Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of*

*Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others*

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

**All: And Also with you**

**Prelude**

*“As the Deer”*

arr: Bruce Greer

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: The Lord is righteous in all He does, merciful in all His acts.

**All: He is near to those who call to Him with sincerity.**

One: He supplies the needs of those who honor Him; He hears their cries and saves them.

**All: He protects everyone who loves Him, but He will destroy the wicked.**

One: I will always praise the Lord;

**All: Let all His creatures praise His holy name forever.**

**\*Hymn**

*“God, Our Father, We Adore Thee”*

Tune: Beecher

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father, we confess that we do not live up to the family name and we have too often forgotten we are Your children. For that reason we have fallen short of being a credible witness to You. For these things we ask Your forgiveness and we also ask for Your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts that we may give witness of You to our world. Remind us to be who You created us to be. Hold us close and help us to seek a closer relationship with You and with those You have given us to love.

**Assurance of Pardon**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ, we have been born again to new life.**

**\*Gloria**

*“Glory to the Father”*

Bill Rutledge

**Children’s Time**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

**Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

Matthew 6: 1-9

**Hymn**

*“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty”*

Hymn 19

## **Sermon**

### Hallowed Be Thy Name

It was Sunday morning and the pastor was asked to teach the boy's Sunday school class. He decided to teach them the Lord's Prayer. To get things started he asked, "Does God have a name?" One of the boys raised his hand and proudly announced, "Our Father who are in heaven Harold be Thy name." From our earliest days most if not all of us have recited the Lord's Prayer, even if there were times when we might have thought that His name really was Harold. The Lord's Prayer has been a part of Christian worship for a long, long time. It's found in two places in the New Testament, the gospel of Matthew and the gospel of Luke. In both of them the wording is nearly identical. In Matthew's gospel it is a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, chapter 6, verses 9-13. In the gospel of Luke, chapter 11, verses 2-4, it's the answer to a request, a request from one of Jesus' disciples who said, "Lord, teach us to pray." Beginning this Sunday and continuing for the next five weeks we're going to be taking a look at the Lord's Prayer, using the version that most of us are familiar with, the one in the gospel of Matthew. It naturally falls into six easily remembered refrains. However, to be honest, sometimes these refrains are repeated so repetitiously that we forget about why Jesus gave us this prayer in the first place. The Lord's Prayer is not something that He just wanted us to memorize and repeat. It was given to us as a model, an example, of how we should pray. In fact, a better name for the Lord's Prayer might be the "Disciple's Prayer." It's the kind of prayer around which we should structure our own prayers when we want to speak with the Lord. With that in mind, let's examine each part of this prayer week by week and discover how it can help us to have a more meaningful prayer life.

So let's get started with those first ten words of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name." As you have probably already guessed, I'm using the King James Version of the Lord's Prayer. It's the one that I and most of you grew up with and the one which is the most familiar to us. I'll be using it throughout this sermon series. But there are many other translations of the Lord's Prayer and I'll be referring to them as well from time to time. Here's one example of that first refrain, "Our Father in heaven, may Your name be honored." Whether in the King James Version or the more modern one I just recited, there are three words which deserve our careful attention—Father, heaven and honored, or in the King James version "hallowed." Let's take a look at each of them.

There are only a few references to God as our father in the Old Testament. For example, Isaiah 64:8 declares, "Yet, O LORD, You are our Father. We are the clay, You are the potter, we are the work of Your hand". Then in Jeremiah 31:9 God promises that He will protect His people because He is "Israel's Father." The Jewish people held God in such high esteem, so separate and distinct from anything related to this world, that they didn't think it was really appropriate to speak about Him in language that was derived from human relationships. That's why they didn't refer to God as Father very often in the Old Testament. They thought it was better to speak of Him in other ways, like Elohim,

the Supreme One, or El Shaddai, God Almighty. However, things began to change when Jesus came along, especially in the Gospel of John. He referred to God as His Father on at least 17 different occasions and there are as many as a hundred different references to the fatherhood of God in the pages of the New Testament. Let's take a look at several of them.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the same place that we find the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tells us not to worry about the things of this world, like food and clothing because He says, "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them." (Matthew 6:32) Then a little further on He reaffirms God's fatherly concern. He says, "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11) And speaking of prayer, just before giving us the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6) Furthermore, Jesus exemplified that kind of reliance upon the fatherhood of God, when on the night before He was crucified, cried out "Abba, Father." (Mark 14:36) That word "abba" is the same one that Paul uses when he says in his letter to the Romans that we can address God in the same way. Speaking about the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian, he says, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry 'Abba, Father'." (Romans 8:15)

Do you know what that word "abba" means? It's Aramaic in origin, the actual language that Jesus spoke when He was growing up. People no longer spoke Hebrew except in the synagogue. They spoke Greek or more often the everyday language of that day and time in the Middle East, Aramaic. The word means "daddy" or "papa." It's a term of endearment and familiarity, of closeness, warmth and affection. It's the word that Jesus used at that most critical moment in His life, when he was seeking to know the will of His heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. It's also the word which Paul said we could use when we want to address our heavenly Father. It's a poignant reminder that we have a Daddy in heaven that really does care about us. We can climb up into His lap like a little child and whisper in His ear, "I love You Daddy, and I need You Daddy. Hold me tight." Even when we're tired and weary and have come to the end of our lives, it's good to know that Jesus said, "In My Father's house there are many rooms, many places where we can dwell with our heavenly Father forever."

Speaking of that eternal home, a pastor asked his congregation, "How many of you want to go to heaven?" Everyone raised their hands except for one little boy. So the pastor asked him, "Sonny, don't you want to go to heaven?" "Yes sir," the boy replied, "but I thought you were getting up a bus load to leave this afternoon." Whether this afternoon or many years from now, there is at least one question that we might ask before we leave, "Where is it and what does it look like?" For sure the Bible, especially the New

Testament, mentions heaven frequently. There's even a brief description of it in the final chapter in the book of Revelation, a beautiful city enclosing a refreshing river and a garden filled with the trees of life. But in terms of describing precisely what it is and where it's located, there's not a great deal of additional information, except for this one singularly important fact. It's the place where God dwells. It's His home and the location from which He rules and reigns. Furthermore, it's outside our frame of reference in terms of the material universe. Yes, in the past many cultures, including the Jewish one, pictured heaven as a domain in the sky. That's why they chose to worship God on high places like mountains. If you will remember, the Transfiguration, Jesus' meeting with Moses and Elijah, took place on a high mountain. So you could say it's up there, but it's also out there, another dimension of reality sitting right alongside of our own, one which we sometimes catch a glimpse of.

Years ago I visited a man who had a major heart attack. He almost died. In fact, his heart had stopped beating for a few moments. The intensive care hospital staff worked very diligently to bring him back. This is what he said, "During those moments when my heart stopped beating, I was on a hillside looking at a shining city off in the distance. A little girl, one whom I had met and casually knew, who had recently died from a childhood illness, walked up to me. She asked, "Do you want to go on," pointing to the city, "or do you want to go back?" After considering the choice that was being presented to me and thinking about my family, I said, "I want to go back." Instantly I was back in the intensive care unit and in a lot of pain. Heaven is real, nearby and ready to receive us when our lives here on earth have come to an end.

Finally, there's that word "hallowed." No, I'm not talking about Halloween. Hallowed is a Shakespearean rendering of what it means to honor someone, to respect them, to reverence them, to esteem them greatly. God's name is holy, special and should never be abused. That's why it really bothers me when someone uses a curse word and then attaches God's name to their expression of anger. How would you feel if someone used the name of your father or your mother and then declared that they wished your parent would harm and destroy someone or something they disliked? Well, that's precisely what people are doing when they say "God" and then attach those three letters "d, a, m." It's an offense to God and clear violation of the second commandment, "Thou shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). It's a declaration of disrespect that everyone, especially Christians should take seriously. Moses told the children of Israel, "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name". (Deuteronomy 5:11). The Jewish people took that commandment seriously and in the days of Jesus would not even say aloud God's personal name, the one He had given to Moses on the Mountain.

So when we pray, let's begin our prayers by doing three things. First, let's address God properly and reverently. In fact, let's not throw His name around carelessly even when

we're not praying. Second, let's remember that He lives in heaven, a spiritual realm that exists right beside our own and sometimes a lot closer than we would ever imagine. Finally, let's always remember that He is the awesome and all powerful Creator of the entire universe, who nevertheless is willing to be our Father, the One above all others who really cares about us. So let's say it together, "**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name!**"

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Worship Song**

*"For Your Name is Holy"*

Paul Wilbur

### **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"*

Hymn 34

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)

Loving and compassionate Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good gifts. Open our hearts to respond to Your grace with generosity and graciousness ourselves. Bless these gifts bless us, sending both into the world as embodiments of your Love and grace brought to all in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Hymn**

*"This is My Father's World"*

Hymn 21

## THE SENDING FORTH

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"Fugue in G Minor"*

Bach

### Joys- October 8<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Ellen thanks everyone for prayers and rides while Tom in hospital

**Joy-** Jay Barnes just celebrated 92nd birthday

### Concerns- October 8<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Teresa Stanley's mother-home recovering

**Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) having problems with transplant

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

Linda- hurt back

**Blair:** Larry (John's brother) heart attack, 2 stents, home

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

**Boone:** Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) enlarged hand

**Callahan:** Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin- (friend) blood clots

**Clarke:** Weebie- hospice care

**Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Zoey Foster- (child) reversal colostomy surgery

Vicky- (friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

**Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham (friend) health issues, Carolyn, wife caretaker

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments

Michael Rutter- septic shock

**DeWitt:** prayers for family on passing of Gerald's father

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Dallas (friend) going into the hospital with heart issues

**Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

Tom- home still has difficulty breathing

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

**Goode:** prayers for Eunice, health issues

Rodney & Connie Groggins (husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues

**Grigg:** Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

**Grubb:** John- heart issues, not feeling well

**Gould:** Jay- allergic to medication

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn-Kibbey:** Phyllis Smith (friend) - heart attack

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches  
Gayle-doing better

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Families of those who serve  
Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes  
For our church as we go through transition  
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung  
John Hargett (friend) slow recovery may never walk

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Nichols:** for family who doesn't know the Lord

**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)  
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer

**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer  
Sonny (son) doing well

**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) not feeling well

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband  
Two firefighters who suffered falls  
Those impacted by fires in Hawaii  
Berry family- memory issues

**Van Dyke:** Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering  
Granddaughter- adjusting to daycare

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

**Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons.**

**Nations to stand up for freedom.**

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

**Prayers for Ukraine**

**Pray for World Peace**



## October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Congregational Session 5¢ a Meal BCM</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Deacons 3:30 pm</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Ecumenical Youth 6 pm @Blair's Evening in Wildwood</i>
<b>22</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Cancer Support</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of October 8<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
BCM Collection/donation  
Congregational Meeting  
Session

Wednesday: Something More, 3 pm

Sunday: October 15<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

### October Birthdays

Lori Stetson - 9  
Philip Parker - 11  
Libby Monk - 21  
Jim Barefoot - 28  
Ann Marie Fleming - 28  
Linda Benton - 30

### October Anniversaries

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28  
Paul & Nancy Van Dyke – 30

### Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Please take time to tell our pastors how we appreciate everything they do and maybe send a card or letter of thanks, or even a dinner out.

