



**Order of Service**  
**24<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Introit:** 220 (TiS) – second tune

**Acknowledgement:**

**Call to Worship:**

Who is this who walks ahead, treading towards places in the shadows and carrying a new light of courage?  
Who is this who bears our burdens willingly and lifts our hearts into a new day of hope?

***It is the Christ, the Human One. It is the life of God who brings us more love than we will ever know.***

**Hymn:** 187 (TiS) 'Let all creation dance'

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession:**

Thanks be to you, O God, for the exciting life which you offer to us – one which is full of new possibilities that are found within ourselves and others, and the whole creation.

Thanks be to you, O God, that you see far more deeply and engage us far more intimately than we are willing, looking past superficial barriers of disapproval, and discovering the beauty and hope which is present to us.

***Thanks be to you for all that you are, O God.***

Loving God, we know that all too often, we hear your voice sending us out towards those who wait in longing for your love, and we choose to stay in the safety of our own sanctuaries as though that is enough for us to be your people.

We are sorry for the times when we fail you, O God.

***Forgive us and remind us again of your hopes for us.***

Forgive us when we do not trust in you to sustain us and guide us as we hold onto our traditional and cultural cloaks of comfort and security, afraid to step out into the daring life of the Spirit and fearful for our future.

***Forgive us and remind us again of your hopes for us. This we pray in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

Even as our feet falter, even as we turn back in weakness, the hand of God reaches out towards us in mercy. We are forgiven.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Doxology:** 768 (TiS) 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow'

**Time with the children:** 'Tina the tree' - Lost Sheep



**Readings:** Hosea 1: 2-10 (in Tongan and in English), Luke 11: 1-13 (in English and in Tongan)

**Hymn:** 609 (TiS) 'May the mind of Christ my Saviour'

**Sermon briefs:**

- The request by one of Jesus' disciples "Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples", reveals a couple of things about both John and Jesus: prayer was central to both their ministry.
- This is probably why Luke does not mention the specific place where Jesus prayed, only that he was praying in a certain place, wanting us to know that Jesus prayed anywhere with anyone and even by himself when he needs to.
- We often think that what the disciples are asking is to be given the words to pray. The reality is as Scott Hoezee mentioned in 'Centre for Excellence in Preaching', "they are enquiring about is how to imitate their Master, turning the entirety of their lives into an extended act of prayer".
- "If that perspective is correct, we could observe a degree of irony in the fact subsequent generations of Christians did turn the Lord's Prayer into a word-for-word memorized form of prayer."
- When this Lord's Prayer is put or located within life as ceaseless act of prayer, than the petitions within it seem to make more sense.
- We pray that the Father's name be hallowed – in all that I am and all that I do, the Father's name is honoured.
- We pray for the coming of the kingdom – where we are fed that we may feed others, where we ask for forgiveness on the basis that we are engaged in acts of forgiveness all the time.
- We pray not to be led into temptation – shows our dependence on God the Father who gives his children good things, to protect and deliver us from evil and the evil doers.
- The point being made here is, that the Lord's Prayer is not just a list of certain requests. It is also a confession of our desire to stay connected to the Father who continues to answer our prayer according to the Father's will.
- The two parables that follows also gives us a clue as to how Jesus sees prayer. Life ought to be an ongoing act of prayer. Hospitality in that sense is an extended act of prayer.
- At the end our gospel reading, Jesus says that God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for it.
- Whether we know it or not, in all our asking and pleading with God, what we are finally asking for and what we will receive in the end is nothing less than the indwelling Spirit of the Living God.
- When we pray in the power of the Spirit, we find that same Spirit living in us and assuring us that no matter what happens, we serve a loving God who holds us tenderly every moment of our lives.

**Hymn:** 626 (TiS) 'Lord of creation'

**Notices**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Offering:**

O God, as we use these gifts in your name, we pray that you will help us to see new ways forward in the creating of a world in which all people may live in justice to your glory.

Guide us now, we pray.

**Amen.**

**Prayers of the People:**

Jesus, you have taught us how to pray and you promise to answer our prayer: hear our prayer for your creation and your church.

When your kingdom comes, righteousness and peace will embrace each other. Bring peace to your warring world and justice to the downtrodden.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, the hungry will be filled with good things. Teach us to share the world's resources, so all may enjoy their daily bread.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, all the rulers of this earth shall praise you. Give wisdom to those who govern and mercy to those who administer law.

Your kingdom comes,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, the proud will be brought low and the lowly lifted high. Bring hope to those who daily face indignity and despair.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, there will be rejoicing and gladness in place of weeping. Comfort those who know the grief of loss or loneliness.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, the lame shall walk and the prisoner shall be free. Release from fear and pain those who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done.***

When your kingdom comes, steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Increase our love for you that we may be your faithful witnesses in the world.

Your kingdom come,  
***O God, your will be done for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.***

**Hymn:** 569 (TiS) 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'

**Blessing:**

**Recessional** – 778 (TiS) 'Shalom to you now'

