

[OPENING PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE AVAILABLE AS A VIDEO HERE](#)

PART 1 – OPENING PRAYERS

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

SENTENCE

Turn away my eyes from looking on vanities:
as I walk in your way give me life.
Psalm 119.37

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,
without you we are not able to please you:
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE PAUSE THE VIDEO

PART 2 — AN ALL AGE VIDEO PART 9 OF *WHERE IS GOD?* FOCUSING ON FINDING GOD IN OUR TIMES OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT AND DOWNLOADABLE MATERIAL FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN [HERE](#)

PART 3 — LOOK UP AND READ THROUGH THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE [SERMON PODCAST](#) (READ ALONG IF YOU WISH) BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE, AND PRAY THE INTERCESSIONS, TODAY BY JOHN TATMAN.

READINGS

Genesis 1:26-28
Psalm 119:33-40
Matthew 6:9-13

SERMON BY REV JENNIE SAVAGE

Available to listen online and/or download – access via Pentecost 2020 link and notice also a reasonable library of past sermons for you to listen to as you exercise or meditate...

Psalm 139:33-40

Let us pray: Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Word; open our hearts and our minds to your Spirit as we reflect and pray. Amen.

In response to the creation story found in Genesis 1, someone (I've found this quote attributed to Voltaire, George Bernard Shaw, Mark Twain and many others) once quipped, "***God created humankind in his image, and then human beings turned around and returned the favour.***"

It's funny, it's true, and it's real, because we look and we experience God through a human lens, a lens that is of each one's own race and culture, the individual's upbringing with its class and prejudices, become the lens we look at all things with. So it takes some reflective thought to recognise these lenses and how they colour our view.

Being Fathers Day today, I decided to reflect upon fatherhood and the ***father image*** of God. I hasten to add that I am well aware of my own set of lenses as you will soon see. But it has been interesting to ponder ***what is the essence of a father?*** Or, when, perhaps if, I speak of God as 'Father', what does that signify? What I am not doing, is arguing for or against the image of Father, rather to reflect a little more deeply upon it.

My own Dad was one who was quiet, but there, alongside, quietly supportive, sometimes puzzled by my exploits, yet did not seek to control me. Being the youngest of five by a good number of years, and more in company with my mother, I did have some treasured moments with Dad when he simply seemed a good companion, someone whom I could confide what was on my mind. I do have one memory of him being angry with me when I little and being disobedient, and his anger terrified me because it was so out of character for him.

When I married and moved out of home, Dad was the rescuer when it came to maintenance crises. He was there for the plumbing emergencies, repairs and replacements of old weatherboards, and the mechanic and panel beater for my old car.

So my image of God as Father may be quite different to yours. Each of you has your own memories of the father you experienced, the type of person he was, the type of relationship you had with him. Some are good, some bad, some perhaps non-existent. Calling God '***Father***', may mean a father who is something like our own, or the best of; for some it might be the antithesis, the ideal father they never had but wished they had.

And of course the Biblical writers also had lenses they wrote through. Early in the Scriptures, ***the*** Father, the Patriarch was the dominant leader of the whole clan or tribe. It was not uncommon for a father to have numerous wives and possibly dozens of children. It would be more likely the Father's relationship with his sons was far more important than those with his daughters, who of course were property like his wives and treated as commodities. That's how it was, all very normal for the time. How different to today's households.

And in Jesus' day – well I wonder if perhaps Jesus' own relationship with Joseph was that bit different to the norm of his day where polygamy was still around and women were definitely still property. Joseph was a man who acted against the accepted norm of his culture. If he had abandoned Mary for being pregnant not by him, he would have been called righteous. But he didn't, and instead sacrificed his claim to righteousness and exhibited compassion and support of

Mary, not just by marrying her, but by calling Jesus his son. What did Jesus learn about fatherhood from this man?

And so we come to that tradition of calling God, among other things, Father. For me, the best father is a companion. For Jesus, God the Father, *Abba* as he called him, was compassionate, and one who particularly looked out for the poor and the marginalised.

But it is not just about the name we call God, but the relationship we have with God and its influence upon us. You know, we don't just have parents while we're children, but also when we're grown up, sometimes into old age ourselves. And then, many of us become parents ourselves. But there is that influence from our family of origin that stays with us. We may have learned lessons from it and made changes, or we may have built upon some good foundations we received. So what do we take from our relationship with God the Father as we grow and mature?

Theologian, Bill Nelson, commented on the end verses of Genesis 1 where after making humankind in God's image, God says to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Gen 1:28)

Bill said, "Many Christians think of God as being in charge of their lives, but is he? According to this reading, God gives dominion to humankind, they are to be in charge and be responsible. I know if my children who are grown up now, were to ring me up everyday and ask me what they should be doing with their lives that day, I would have failed as a parent!" Further, Bill went on to say, "I think that in Genesis 3, that reading we call 'the fall', that the greater sin was not in eating the apple off the tree, but not taking responsibility for it by the way they shifted the blame for what they had done, Adam to Eve, and Eve to the serpent, and so they were expelled from the garden and had the tougher gig of learning to survive, of learning to make better choices, to choose life rather than death as the story of the human problem continued into human history."¹

It's a shock when you realise you're responsible! When Dad was no longer around to fix things up. What of God? Perhaps my experience has taught me that what is more important than God rescuing me from my problems, is that God has confidence in me to work through them. God though, is always my companion and the source of all wisdom.

In the same way a teacher teaches the student to learn and to become responsible for their ongoing learning, for a good teacher knows his or herself is always a student.

And yet the relationship remains, yet grows and evolves, of the child to the parent, and the student to the teacher. As we grow as Christians, it is good to reflect upon how we have grown, and how our relationship with God has grown and changed.

Psalm 119, part of which we read today, is a very long psalm, written in the wisdom tradition. A wisdom that reflects upon the wisdom of learning and absorbing God's ways so that we might tread the path of true righteousness which leads to life for all.

Let us pray this portion of the psalm for our growth as children of God:

³³ *Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.*

³⁴ *Give me understanding, that I may keep your law*

¹ Nelson speaking in the DVD series *Living the Questions*

and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ *Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.*

³⁶ *Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.*

³⁷ *Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.*

³⁸ *Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.*

³⁹ *Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.*

⁴⁰ *See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.*

Amen.

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INTERCESSIONS BY JOHN TATMAN

Loving Father; You have called us to pray for “your kingdom to come” and “your will to be done here as it is in heaven” so we pray for the world, all its people, and your Church.

We pray for all world leaders, their advisors, and those who make and administer our laws. We remember especially Scott Morrison, Daniel Andrews and their health ministers. Lord give us all the wisdom, the strength, and the humility needed for these times. Help us to remember that it is you who gives us life; that you are watching over us, to bless and care for us. That out of the darkness of this pandemic, you are leading us to light.

Out of unrest to rest; out of disorder, to order; out of our faults and failure to perfection.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for your church, all who will preach or teach your word today. We remember Archbishop Philip, Bishop Paul, Jennie our priest, and all your faithful people. Lord, we pray that we will always be aware, that we are your people. A people called for love and to share love. A people called for joy, and to spread joy. A people called for blessing, and to bless. A people called to bear fruit, a forgiven people, your church, your family.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We thank you Lord, for our community, for all who work here to serve and care for us. We remember all health workers, especially those at the Frankston Hospital. Lord, we pray for those who are troubled or unsettled by the current restrictions. Help us all to conform for the good of our neighbours and let us see the signs of your love that surround us every day. Let us hear your gentle voice and remember your promise that you will never leave us, that you are here, beside us, even until the end of this age.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who suffer and bring before you the names of those known to us.

We remember the poor and unemployed, the lonely, the persecuted, those with mental health issues, those in aged care, and all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who are in sorrow, need or any other trouble, surround them with your love and hope. Let us all be reassured as we see the signs of your love and power, within the return of spring, this season that promises so much, the blossom, the fruit, this time of growth. Lord; in these times of restrictions teach us new ways to sow the seeds of your grace, your forgiveness, your mercy, and your love, new ways, to grow and blossom, and reveal the joy of being yours, and being loved by you

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for the saints of every age; for those who have gone before us; those who lived in past pandemics; those whose faith could not be shaken, even under torture and death; and those who have shown us today your glory, and the way to your eternal rest.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our

Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

PLEASE RESUME THE VIDEO FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.
At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos.
You formed us, male and female, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.
We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.
You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.
And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary. Bright image of your glory,
he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil,
freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.
You raised him from death, exalting him to glory,
and the new day dawned.
On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions
on the way.
While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it,
and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup
we celebrate his saving death until he comes.
Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood
to serve you in the world.
As one body and one holy people,
may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God,
we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world
and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

BLESSING

**The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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