

# ONLINE SERVICE

Sunday 19 April 2020

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Amazing Grace  
Andrea Bocelli  
from the Duomo in Milan

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:9-15  
Christine Bradbeer

Young at Heart  
*The Lord is King* by Colin Buchanan  
(based on Psalm 2)

Sermon  
Learning to Pray with Jesus  
"Our Father"  
Matthew 6:9

Prayers of Intercession  
and  
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



## NOTICES

19 April 2020

Wednesday 22 April 1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time

Sunday 26 April 11 am Sermon on the Mount #



Streaming online during the  
COVID-19 lockdown.

**To join us online...**

Go to [blackburnpc.org.au](http://blackburnpc.org.au) and click the Facebook button or to  
<https://www.facebook.com/blackburnpresbyterian/>

**For your prayers this week:**

**Congregational members:**

**Carey and Kathy Cox**

also

**Paul & Anthea** formerly in the Middle East, are now ministering  
with a Diaspora Team in Australia working with refugees.

MEMBERS who wish to continue their freewill  
offerings may use the banking details at the bottom  
of this page or post to our Treasurer. Vic Ansell,  
59 Queen St Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555.

GARDENIA ST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
53 Gardenia Street,  
Blackburn 3130



Minister: Rev Graham Bradbeer  
tel. 9041 7911 mobile. 0409 978 690  
Session Clerk: Mr Keith Ferres 98305466  
Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

Electronic Banking Details: ANZ Forest Hill,  
Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church  
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

GARDENIA ST.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BLACKBURN

19 April 2020

WHAT  
FRIEND  
WE HAVE IN  
JESUS  
ALL OUR SINS AND GRIEFS TO BEAR  
WHAT A  
PRIVILEGE  
TO CARRY  
EVERYTHING  
TO GOD  
IN PRAYER

[WWW.FORHELOVES.ME](http://WWW.FORHELOVES.ME)

WELCOME



It's been over four years since Australian missionary doctor, 84-year-old Kenneth Elliot and his wife Jocelyn, were kidnapped from their clinic in Djibo by Muslim terrorists in Burkina Faso. They were kidnapped on January 15 2016 and Jocelyn was freed three weeks later, but Ken remains in captivity. *Eternity Newspaper*

Formerly known for its religious tolerance, Christians in Burkina Faso have in recent years feared for their survival since the rise of extremist Islam. In 2019 a surge in vicious militant attacks took the lives of over 50 Christians and wounded hundreds more.

At least 15,000 people are now displaced in Burkina Faso. Fear of violence prevents many believers from attending church services or sending their children to school. It has been reported that school teachers have died at the hands of extremists for failing to teach Islam.

Ethnic divisions, aided by religious differences, have resulted in extreme pressure for Christians to renounce their faith. Converts are particularly vulnerable, cut off from their family and stigmatised in their community.

Over 50 churches were attacked in the last year and several churches in areas dominated by traditional African religions have been burnt down. *Open Doors*

## Learning to Pray with Jesus.

Sermon Notes

During WW2 Lutheran pastor Helmut Thielicke began a series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer. It was commenced in Stuttgart's Church of the Hospitallers, but before the series was completed all Stuttgart's churches were destroyed. Afterwards Thielicke commented *Where people had lived for centuries they now came face to face with eternity.*

Today around the world a silently spreading life-destroying virus is creating, for many in our globally connected community, a similar face to face encounter with eternity.

Thielicke's notes were translated into English as *The Prayer that Spans the World* (1965). Today, like those German Christians, we turn to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount to learn again how to pray.

We need this help. We noticed two weeks ago that as sinful people we easily debase prayer by our religious hypocrisy and pagan incantations. We have imagined on the one hand, we can get kudos if we are seen as devout, praying for show. On the other hand we may imagine that prayers need volume and bulk to be heard so we go for mechanical or rote options. Thus Jesus has critiqued false notions of prayer in the preceding verses. Now he moves to a new level.

### 1. The relationship

It is true that we are all children of God, created in his image. However, Jesus' use of the words "our Father" is an invitation to a more intimate relationship. He wants his disciples to share his relationship with God the Father.

The eternal Son of God invites us as children adopted into the family to come to God as to a loving parent. "My Father and your Father, my God and your God" (John 20:17).

We must never forget this! From this primary relationship Christian prayer arises. Forgiven and forgiving is the family DNA. Jesus' intends our minds and hearts to be involved in prayer.

### 2. First things first

Seen in its true light prayer is not "a meaningless repetition of words, nor as a means to our own glorification, but as a true communion with your heavenly Father" (John Stott). From this loving family relationship centred on God our prayers arise. So we have God's Name, kingdom and will as the focus of the first three petitions.

This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:



Our Father in heaven,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right;  
Do what's best—  
as above, so below.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
You're in charge!  
You can do anything you want!  
You're ablaze in beauty!  
Yes. Yes. Yes.

Just as each of us can say I am "I", so God is truly intensely personal. Not male, but not less than personal, perhaps "beyond personality" as CS Lewis has expressed.

The petitions of the prayer in this God relationship acknowledge not only of God's person, but also of his love, power and purpose.

Do we enjoy a prayer relationship that lingers on such delights? What might our loving God be pursuing and purposing through this current crisis?

### 3. Last not least

In the second group of three petitions the pronoun changes from "your" to "our". The petitions are give us, forgive us and deliver us. They reveal that the God we address in our prayer is concerned with our physical, spiritual and moral well-being.

Nothing is off the table here. In the isolation of our room there is nothing we cannot express to our Father and our God. In our corporate prayers we must seek similar honesty and candour.

While these things come second it is a mistake to think they are of lesser importance. It was the purpose of Jesus to achieve the will of the Father on earth by redeeming a new humanity through his death and resurrection. Ah Easter!

The Bible presents this renewed humanity as God's "treasured possession", Christ's "Body" and glorious "Bride" (Malachi 3, 1 Corinthians 12, Revelation 19).