

TIME FOR A SPECIAL SONG

MP No 3

Abba Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone.
May my will for ever be,
Evermore Your own.
Never let my heart grow cold,
Never let me go.
Abba, Father, let me be
Yours and Yours alone.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

You will no doubt have heard the announcement that a date is being considered for opening churches. Possible date July 4 or even earlier. This will be for **private prayer only** at this stage - with all the necessary requirements for distancing, cleansing and so on. The target group is obviously the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities and not ourselves. The local Anglican churches have received an instruction document of procedures to follow **30 pages long!**

There is a query as to the notion that groups of six can get together.

Question - does this mean only families/ close friends or could this be utilised within the church activities? What is very clear is that it is all too confusing - so all we can say is watch this space! We will let you know.

CHURCH RENOVATION

The carpet has been fitted so that is a major task now completed - and it looks good. The factory has made the new windows and they have arrived at the Company doing the fitting. Because of the way we prepare Church at Home for the distribution by printed document this will have been printed by the 8th June. So all I can do is tell you the fitting of the windows is scheduled for the 10th June. Hence it looks like everything will be done as you read this and even the scaffold removed from the front of the Church. It has all been a formidable task of getting things done during a period of so much uncertainty. Woodworm in the main hall has been treated. The heating systems are being serviced this week. Just take a moment **and praise the Lord** that we have managed to do these things. **DPS**

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to
CHURCH AT HOME
Sunday 21st June 2020
FATHERS DAY

Read through this outline and join with everyone else at 11 am

HYMN MP 133 (to read or sing)

Father, I place into Your hands
The things that I can't do.
Father, I place into Your hands
The times that I've been through.
Father, I place into Your hands
The way that I should go
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, I place into Your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into Your hands
The person I would be.
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, we love to seek Your face,
We love to hear Your voice.
Father, we love to sing Your praise,
And in Your Name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with You
And in Your presence rest
For we know we always can trust You

Father, I want to be with You
And do the things You do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That You are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That You will draw to You
For I know that I am one with You.

PRAYER *(It would be good if you said this out aloud)*

*O Lord God our gracious, heavenly Father
You alone are worthy to be praised.*

*What a privilege it is to call You our Father,
Thank You for Jesus He is a wonderful Saviour
What He did for us upon the cross of Calvary
Enabled us to know You as our God and father.*

*This is the day You have made so equip us with the strength,
and the faith to trust You with the struggles and the upsets
we are facing right now.*

Thank You that You give us hope joy and peace.

*Lord I ask you to bless and help(put a name (s) and meet
their every need in the Name of Jesus !*

AMEN

You may like to say the Lord's prayer also.

BIBLE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-9
"Our Father which art in heaven

"OUR FATHER" ON FATHER'S DAY

A couple of weeks ago the same letter appeared in two different national news papers asking the question " *What shall I do with all the photographs I have? Here I am in my late seventies, my sons do not want them, shall I burn them or what?*" The letter triggered some emotional moments for me because I had been sorting pictures of Mark and my other two children. VE day had made me remember my father and the small black and white photographs I had of him. Of the things we did together. Teaching me to ride a bike. During those dreadful days of the war he made me a Flying Fortress bomber - carved out of wood whilst with his companion firemen as they were waiting for the next call out to a fire. Most of all finding him on his knees daily with an open Bible calling out to the Lord

Now here we are Father's day once again a time of memories and gratitude for many. Yet for others horrendous stories of family abuse, all too many fathers who were (and still are) unworthy and unloving even unknown. - so we talk of absentee fathers. Broken homes with all the sadness that brings. Can I share with you a very simple reflection on what we call the Lord's Prayer something we say or sing in about 30 seconds yet takes a lifetime to live out its tremendous truths. It is so familiar but if you think about it this is one of God's ways of awakening your soul, stirring your faith, strengthening your vision , captivating your love.

THE REQUEST " *Teach us to pray*"

We are people making our way through a dark, frightening at times world full of so much uncertainty and confusion. Many voices are raised telling us what to do and who we are. The disciples watched Jesus closely. They saw how He prayed often up in the hills, out by the sea, in a quiet garden. He always returned back to them more rested, more certain, more determined, more at peace than before, unafraid, purposeful. If only He could teach them how it was done so they asked Him " *Lord, teach us to pray*" and so He did.

THE RESULT " *Our FATHER*

" *When you pray say " Our Father"* and it was an amazing, awesome truth that we could know God as our heavenly Father. Something never expressed before. To help us grasp this incredible concept Jesus told a parable about a prodigal son and the kind, loving, caring nature of the prodigal's father. How he was waiting with open arms to celebrate his son's return. It lets us know that God is a Father who waits, who forgives, who is approachable, affectionate (" *threw his arms around him*") waiting in the same kind of way to lavish gifts and blessings upon us BUT most of all a father who forgives. (*Luke 15:11-14*)

On another occasion Jesus made it so clear that God our Father is so specially involved with us (*Read Luke 11:1-13*) " *You know how to give good gifts to your children ... how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him*" . The more you discover that He is a Father who loves His children, will discipline if prudent but most of all One who provides us with the encouragement to fully live our lives as His redeemed children. It is so distinctly personal with a warmth in the relationship that helps us to reflect Him to the world at large.

THE REALISATION " *OUR Father*"

Two words that establish the exciting confession that make us aware of our two way relationship. Simple but profound. In a relationship with God and so we belong to each other. We are brothers and sisters. This is more than a prayer but a creed that will help us together to march on through whatever confronts us in this life. He is OUR Father - we are family, linked together by Divine grace. No human barriers to divide us - Christ makes us one. Sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. What a privilege. **DPS**