

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHURCH AT HOME
Sunday 20th June 2021
"Father's Day"

A Chorus and Hymn to read or sing

Father God, I wonder how I managed to exist
without the knowledge of your parenthood
and your loving care.

But now I am your son, I am adopted in your family,
and I can never be alone 'cause, Father God,
You're there beside me.

I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises
I will sing Your praises for evermore.

I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises
I will sing Your praises for evermore.

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 should 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

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be thy name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bible Verse for today

**"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3.1)**

"The provision of the Father..."

On this Father's Day, we may have mixed emotions about the day. I, with many others, received a number of emails from eating places asking me if I was happy to receive their promotional emails about Father's Day meals. Their email went on to explain how for many the day is a difficult day and is not celebrated by all. Earthly fathers often fall short of what is hoped for and needed – so could Father's Day become a thing of the past? Thankfully, we have the perfect example of fatherhood revealed in God's Word of our Heavenly Father. Jesus revealed the Father, for he knew the Father in a perfect relationship.

In John Chapter 3, John the Baptist gives testimony of the greatness of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. Within his testimony of how John must decrease that Jesus might increase, John says: **"The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands" (v35)**

How did God the Father love God the Son? They spent time together. The Father affirmed His love for His Son – on a number of occasions you might remember how a voice was heard from Heaven.

Fathers in our country and culture have tended to be cold and distant but this is not so in all cultures. The Parable of the Prodigal Son, reveals the Father's love for His wayward son – defying what was culturally acceptable – he ran, he embraced, he provided proof of his loving acceptance and held a celebratory party for the repentant son. This is how God the Father receives all who return to him penitent for their mistakes. How much more is the Father's love for His perfectly obedient Son, the Lord Jesus?

What is fatherhood all about? What is a father seeking to do? A father's role includes preparing the next generation for what they will face. Fatherhood is often jokingly expressed as being the "Bank of Dad" for Dad's always seem to have to have their hands in their pockets. Fatherhood is about being a provider – as we can see in the second part of the verse, **"The Father...has placed everything in his hands"** What had the Father placed into Jesus' hands?

1. The Father gave the Son wisdom

Jesus grew in wisdom. He learned of His Father's ways in the Scriptures, no doubt at home and in visits to Jerusalem and his local Synagogue. Where on one occasion He saw and declared his reason for being in the world.

"The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him..." He read it and then said, **"...today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4.16-21)**

Jesus, the Son of David, was wiser than Solomon. We see this in his dealings with those opposed to him and towards those who were committed to him. This wisdom was given the Son, by the Father. We are promised wisdom as God's children if we need His direction.

"If any one lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given him." (James 1.5)

2. The Father gave the Son power

Dads are stronger than their children – at least to begin with.

Children have to seek assistance when extra strength is required.

Jesus grew in wisdom and strength. This strength included physical, emotional, and spiritual strength for what lay ahead in his ministry. The passage Jesus read from Isaiah in the Synagogue in Nazareth included the words: **"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me..."** Jesus' task involved preaching and proclaiming; recovering and releasing; making known the Lord's favour (the gospel). Jesus did all of this in the power of the Holy Spirit. The miracles of healing the sick (e.g. Mark 8.22f) were performed in the power the Father gave him, through the Holy Spirit's anointing. The miracles of multiplying supplies for 4000 (Mark 8.6f) was in step with the Spirit's power as Jesus followed and fulfilled His Father's plan. We are to keep in step with God's Spirit to fulfil God's plan for the Church in the world. Without His power we cannot meet the needs but with His power we can. (Galatians 5.25)

3. The Son gave the Father his love

There is much in the Bible about children honouring their fathers (and mothers). The Son gave the Father His perfect obedience – even to death on a cross!

The Father gave his Son – for the sins of the world

The Father still loved the Son but had to deal once and for all with the sins of the world He loved too.

Jesus' perfect obedience is the ultimate display of love for the world to see.

Three days after his death, Jesus rose in the power of the Spirit – **"appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit...was taken up in glory"** (1 Timothy 3.16) where the Father gave his Son – the Name above all Names, bringing all things under his feet (Philippians 2.9f)

The Father loved the Son – spending time with him and affirming him.

All things were placed in his hands to assist and prepare him for the future – that's what Dads should aim to do.

Our Heavenly Father loves each of his children and wants communication with them – that's why Jesus was sent, to reconcile us to God.

As His children, He wants us to be prepared with wisdom and power for living, just as Jesus was. Take a moment this Father's Day to talk with your Heavenly Father – give him your love and honour, receive what you need for each new day from His endless resources.