

Media and Graphics Notes

Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	Yes, there are sermon notes throughout.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about prayer, particularly the phrase in the Lord's prayer: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because prayer is a one of the ways that we can discover God's will for our life.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the third sermon in a five week capital campaign series seeking to raise \$800,000 for electrical infrastructure and sanctuary renovation.

It is adapted from I preached on February 24, 2013 which, in turn was prepared with the help of The Lord's Prayer sermon series at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection which was February 10 to March 16, 2008.

What are the next action steps?

Take time to pray, because, it is one of the primary ways that we can listen to God, discover God's will for our life and find ways that we can live as part of God's kingdom here and now.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that when we pray, God is at work changing our heart and life.

What are other key takeaways? (140 characters or less)

- We invite you to pray, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" for our campaign, but even more than that, for your daily life, for our church and community, for ways that, together, we might live as part of God's kingdom and listen for God's still small voice.



- Prayer is the means by which we open our hearts and souls to the presence of Christ and deepen our connection and relationship with God.

Metadata

Topic(s)

1. Change Lives
2. Give
3. Grow

Sermon Books of the Bible

1. Mark
2. Matthew
3. Revelation

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, giving, generosity, stewardship, capitalcampaign, prayer, LordsPrayer, will, listen, life

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Matthew 6:7-13, CEB

“When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name. Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us. And don’t lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

[Play sermon starter video.](#)

Series Review

We are a growing church, growing family, moving forward. Our story began in December 1869 as the church first church organized in Butler County. In the first sixty years of our church’s existence, we worshiped in seven different locations and built three brand new buildings. We have the opportunity to build on the legacy of generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. Today, we focus on what is revealed in prayer by taking a closer look at the phrase from the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

Take Notes - Bulletin

I invite you to take notes during the message today. You can find a place in your bulletin or if you have a mobile device you can take notes and save them in the Bible App. Just open the Bible App, click on “More” and then “Events” You’ll find us on the map.

God Speaking

I pray that you will hear God speaking to you sometime during the service today. Listen for God’s word for you – something that helps you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Whenever you hear it, write it down.

Tool for Spiritual Growth

Then, take this bulletin home with you so that you can grow in your faith outside of worship by reflecting on what you heard today, praying for others connected with our community and reading scripture.

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Opening Story - Kentucky Derby and Prayer

[Text here]

Transition

Before we take a closer look at the phrase “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” I want to remind you of the structure of the Lord’s Prayer.

Outline of the Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer begins with an address to God and continues with six petitions or requests. The first three have to do with God and the final three have to do with people. I want to show you what this looks like as it may be a helpful guide as we consider this particular phrase from the prayer which we pray in worship every week. Let’s take a look...

Address

Our Father, who art in heaven

—

Divine Petitions

- 1) Hallowed be thy name.
- 2) Thy kingdom come,
- 3) Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

—

Human Petitions

- 1) Give us this day our daily bread.
- 2) And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- 3) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

—

Doxology

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

This prayer is a model for our worship life as it “begins not with human needs and desires, but with the honor of God as God.”¹

What does God’s Kingdom look like?

What image of God’s kingdom do you have in mind when you pray the Lord’s Prayer?

If you don’t have an idea of the Kingdom of God, you are praying empty words.
This is a prophetic prayer

Example of God’s Kingdom

[Text here]

Images for God and God’s Kingdom

What do you imagine when you think of a picture of God and God’s kingdom?

- King and a kingdom
- President and CEO of a corporation
- Mayor of a town
- Warden of a prison

The kingdom of God is the place where God's dream for creation, community and individual is lived out completely.

God’s kingdom is the place where God’s will is done completely.

What is God’s Kingdom?

God’s Kingdom began with Jesus

Jesus Begins his Public Ministry

Jesus announces the kingdom of God in his first public preaching. In the gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark, we read that as Jesus begins his public ministry, he is baptized by John the Baptist, tempted in the wilderness and then returns to Galilee to begin his public ministry. Hear these words from Mark 1:14-15:

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”²

The kingdom of God.

¹ Leander E. Keck, ed., Matthew, vol. VIII of The New Interpreter’s Bible (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 203.

² Mark 1:14-15, CEB.

God's Kingdom is not here yet

Jesus ushered in God's reign with signs and wonders, yet his ministry only marked the beginning of the realization of an even larger promise of the restoration of the whole creation. God's kingdom will reach completion when Jesus comes again as described in Revelation 21:1-4, NIV.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."³

We are invited to should continue to pray for the coming of God's kingdom by recognizing God's lordship and accept God's reign in their lives. When we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer, we commit ourselves to the service of Jesus as Lord and to anticipate the time when all of creation will be restored under God's gracious rule.

God's Kingdom is already here

God's Kingdom is not completely here, yet in some ways it is already here.

In between the inauguration of the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ and its completion at Jesus' second coming, we have the opportunity to live as part of God's kingdom in the world and anticipate the fully complete kingdom of God.

We can participate in God's kingdom as it is breaking into the world. If we believe that God's kingdom is a place of justice, I can engage in those activities that promote justice today. If I believe that God's kingdom is a place where the poor and displaced are cared for, I can care for those who are poor and displaced today.

Key Quote - Leander Keck

Theologian, Leander Keck, writes this:

"For Jesus and his disciples, the kingdom was not only a future reality at the end of the world, but a present experience. ... The prayer acknowledges that God is God and that God is finally responsible for bringing in God's rule, but one cannot pray this prayer without committing one's own will and action to fulfilling the will of God in the present and praying that other people will submit themselves to God's rule in the here and now. For Christians, submitting oneself to God's rule includes becoming disciples of Jesus Christ."⁴

³ Revelation 21:1-4, CEB.

⁴ Leander E. Keck, ed., Matthew, vol. VIII of The New Interpreter's Bible (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 205.

Conclusion

Thy Will be Done...

Of course the challenge when we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” is that much of the time, I am more interested in my kingdom and my will, rather than God’s kingdom and God’s will.

Good News

The good news is that when we pray, God is at work changing our heart and life.

Call to Action

Prayer is the means by which we open our hearts and souls to the presence of Christ and deepen our connection and relationship with God. It is not just asking – presenting God a ‘wish list’ of our wants. Take time to pray, because, it is one of the primary ways that we can

listen to God,
discover God’s will for our life and
find ways that we can live as part of God’s kingdom here and now.

Invitation

In the days ahead, I invite you to pray, “Lord, what do you want to do through me?” for our campaign, but even more than that,
for your daily life,
for our church and community,
for ways that, together, we might live as part of God’s kingdom and
listen for God’s still small voice.

Closing Prayer

Will you pray with me?

O Lord, what do you want to do through us?
Speak clearly to us as individuals as a congregation.
Help us shape our will to yours and live faithfully as part of your kingdom.
Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts.
Help us to listen.
Amen.