

Sermon Discussion Guide 1.21.24

Way of Prayer: Your Kingdom, Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor Carmen Schrock-Hurst

Preparation: Reflect on any memories you have of how you were taught the Lord's prayer as a child. When, if ever, did you pray this prayer?

Discuss: What role did your **family and congregation** play in teaching you to pray in general, and to pray the Lord's prayer in particular? What did you learn from the **world** around you about "the way of prayer"?

Pray the Lord's prayer together using the version found in Matthew 6:9-13. Focus on the phrase: *your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. What does God's kingdom mean to you? What does it mean to allow this teaching to shape how we pray?

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

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

List and Discuss: Share as many additional Scriptures as you can about God's kingdom.

(** Some sample Scriptures are listed below.) How do these teachings about God's kingdom inform how we should pray?

What do you think: How is HMC incorporating teaching about prayer in the life of the congregation? How might we do a better job of supporting households and families, discipleship communities and small groups in deepening our prayer lives?

Extra Credit: Reflect on our current practice of including a time of prayer during first service. How do you experience this style of prayer? Would you appreciate other types of prayer at this time? (Please take notes and pass this feedback on to Carmen for staff to consider.)

** Some sample Kingdom scriptures: Matthew 4:17, Matthew 4:23, Matthew 5:3, Matthew 13:31-32, Matthew 13:44, Mark 1:14-15, Luke 12:32, Luke 17:20-21, Romans 14:17.