

August 8, 2020

From: Pastor Allen

Dear Friends,

This week I received an email from Russell Mays. Many of you will remember Russell and Kathy Mays, active members of JPC who recently moved to Fayetteville, TN to be closer their son who lives in Huntsville, AL. As a spiritual discipline, Russell writes poetry, mostly short pieces, and especially Haiku. His body of work reflects the joy, wonder, love, and hope of a grateful follower of Jesus. In this week's email, Russell shared his reflections on the Lord's Prayer, and he gave me permission to share it with you. I hope you find it helpful in your own meditation and prayer.

These are Russell's words:

I repeat the words of this prayer daily, some days, multiple times. I wondered, am I just repeating words? What do these words really mean to me? The following is the result of several days of reflection. Enjoy.

Our Father: Creator of the universe; of the highest peaks and the unknown depths of the sea; of all living things: from mustard seed to giant sequoias, and all living beings. All of us and each of us.

Which art in heaven: The home of He who was, who is, and always will be. That place for which our spirits hunger.

Hallowed be thy name: Although we confuse ourselves and address you by many names, we know you are one. Your name is the highest name above all names in the universe. There is no other above you.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done: We long for your kingdom of peace and everlasting love and your will that one day we will be one family of believers; yet we continue to see it as belonging to the distant future in both time and space.

On earth as it is in heaven: We know that if we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, we will find your kingdom here and now, but, individually and collectively, we stumble over ourselves, our tongues, and our fears and insecurities; and fail time and again. Help us to become your kingdom here and now.

Give us each day our daily bread: You fed us in the desert, yet we think of ourselves as too important and self-sufficient to trust you with our whole hearts and minds and admit that, even with our abundance, we are utterly dependent on you. Help us know and accept our neediness as well as your boundless sufficiency.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors: We know of your great mercy toward us. If we were judged by our behavior, who would survive? Teach us to open our hearts and learn to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: The Spirit led your Christ into the desert to be tempted. You know we are not as strong as He. Grant us strength and open our eyes and hearts to recognize evil and avoid it.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory Forever: We are yours. You are with us and within us. You long, as do we, for that time when we will all be together as one, seeing you face to face; that we may live in your heaven praising you forever.

Amen: This I believe.

May God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Allen

Prayer Lists:

Church Members:

Evelyn Adams, Kathie Dameron, Pam Dunn, Wilma Florence, Hal Knight, Charlotte McDonald, Jeri Paolini, Jill Sauceman, Bob Scheu, Richard Schwerdtfeger, Cheryl Smith, Tony Smith, Beverlee Wightman

On-going Prayers for Members:

Summer Buchanan, Sara Nan Byrd, Betty Correll, Joseph Dykes, Alisa & Barbara Goolsby, Elizabeth Hoss, Cherry Smith, Larry Smith, Ruth Verhegge

Church Prayer List of Family & Friends and Relatives

Delbert Elliott, a friend of the DRC, Audrey Sinisi (related to the Comer family)

August Birthdays

Sara Cash 3
Charlotte Pahriss 7
Rebecca Wolfe 11
Ed Logan 14
Jesse Dykes 15
Jeri Paolini 17
Brooke Ransdell 17
Ann Florence 18
Karen Childress 22
Susan Hagar 26
Patty Starkey 30