

Minister's Musings – February 2019

Dear Friends, during this month our morning services will be based on the words of The Lord's Prayer and led by our own preachers, ministerial and lay. It has been a joy working with them as we planned, prayed and prepared together and I know how many of you appreciate this "team" approach even if it is only for a change of voice! Special thanks go to Brian Lewis and Tony Law for writing hymns that we shall use at various times in the coming weeks. Details on all these services can be found in the foyer if you haven't already received a sheet about them.

We decided on The Lord's Prayer as our theme for at least a couple of reasons. Firstly because it is a part of nearly all of our services yet can become so familiar that we may not always reflect on its original meaning when Jesus spoke these words or what they mean for us today and secondly because Jesus gave us this prayer not simply as one to say but as a model for all our prayers and our hope is that as we reflect on its words each of us may find our life of prayer enriched.

You will notice that we are using the modern version of The Lord's Prayer in these services. We believe as preachers that it is a more accurate translation and certainly a more accessible one and in keeping with the way we generally address God nowadays. However, we recognise that it is still not as familiar to many of us as that with which we were brought up so don't worry, the words will be on the screen! In the meantime, to help us prepare for our reflections some words written by that well-known author anonymous!

I cannot pray OUR if my faith has no room for other people and their needs.

I cannot pray FATHER if I do not demonstrate that relationship in my daily living.

I cannot pray IN HEAVEN if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot pray HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME if I who am called by His name do not desire to be holy.

I cannot pray YOUR KINGDOM COME if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming.

I cannot pray YOUR WILL BE DONE if I am unwilling to have it in my own life.

I Cannot pray ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN unless I am willing to serve Him here and now.

I cannot pray GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD if I am ignoring those who hunger.

I cannot pray FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US if I don't.

I cannot pray SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL if I deliberately place myself in tempting situations.

I cannot pray AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL if I am not prepared to fight with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot pray FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS if I really desire it for myself.

I cannot pray NOW AND FOR EVER if my horizon is bounded by time and place

I cannot pray AMEN unless I can say "This is my prayer, let it be so".

With love and prayers Leo.