

Chris Murphy

January 25th 2026

Luke 11: 1-10

Sermon Title: Thy Kingdom Come

Luke 11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Lord's Prayer

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 2 So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father,[a] may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.[b]

3 Give us each day our daily bread.[c]

4 And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”[d]

Perseverance in Prayer

5 And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7 And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

9 “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for

everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (This is the Word of God)

Please pray with me...

Introduction:

Do you remember when you learned to pray? I am not sure how old I was at the time, but early on in my life my parents encouraged me to finish my day by kneeling at the side of my bed and praying a simple prayer giving thanks for my day, praying for others, and asking God to watch over me at night. At church, I remember praying each Sunday the Lord's Prayer. Growing up Presbyterian we had three things to remember as part of our church worship experience, the Lord's prayer, the doxology- Praise God from whom all blessing flow, and the gloria patri- Glory Be to the Father...

It is nice to remember those songs today and to remember the Lord's prayer. As a kid I am not sure those words always sunk in but now they carry deep meaning for me.

The Lord's Prayer has significance as I remember the wisdom in its words. Let's take some time to remember this prayer and to connect it to the mission of our church.

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name...

In this part of the prayer, we stand in awe before God. We recognize God is holy, God is pure love and a natural response to being in God's presence is worship and awe.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

This is an opportunity for us to pray for God's will in the world. The Kingdom of God is God's way of doing things. It is God's desire for the world. When we pray this portion of the Lord's prayer in our homes, we might pause and lift up different needs in our lives and in our world and ask for God's will.

Well known theologian and New Testament scholar NT Wright believes Christians need to remember that the Bible is written to emphasize the importance of the kingdom of God.

Here are some notable quotes from N.T. Wright regarding the Kingdom of God:

"The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom. It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven."

"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven." This statement reflects Wright's view that the

Kingdom of God is about transforming the present world rather than escaping it.

"What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future." This quote emphasizes the importance of our actions in the present as part of building God's Kingdom.

These quotes encapsulate Wright's theological perspective on the Kingdom of God, emphasizing its present reality and the active role of believers in manifesting God's reign on earth.

After worship today, when we enjoy our annual congregational meeting I will highlight some of how our church is partnering with God in supporting God's kingdom work on earth. I will mention a couple things now.

One way we participate with God's kingdom work is by supporting the mission of our peace Garden. Through spiritual retreats of various kinds both on Fridays and Saturdays our church is supporting a movement of awakening people to the reality of God's kingdom on earth. Our retreats are connected to the ministry of the Newberg Center for Christian Spirituality based at our church. Our Peace Garden now also has a community vegetable garden that will continue to produce food for hungry people in our town. We donate food from our community garden to FISH Food Bank and the Bruin Community Pantry, which is a Food Bank connected to George Fox University.

Give us today our daily bread.

This prayer reminds us to ask for our own physical, spiritual, and emotional needs but also to pray for God to provide those needs for

other, like our neighbors in town and people who are suffering around the world because they lack basic necessities.

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

This part of the prayer invites us to confess our own sins and invites us to forgive others. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote this about forgiveness.

“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. The one who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.

There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us.

When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.”

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

In this portion of the prayer, we recognize our own limitations and our temptations. Not everyone may have exactly the same temptations, but in my experience of humanity, we all have an achilles heal that makes us vulnerable to be tempted in some way. Rather than hiding our temptations from God, this prayer invites us to be honest, knowing that God has the power to help us avoid temptation and by grace find balance and wholeness in our lives. This does not mean we will always be perfect. But it does suggest that by being humble and honest about our temptations, God will help us walk the path of greater wholeness and freedom. This part of the prayer also acknowledges there is evil and we need to be honest that though love is more powerful than evil, we need to be honest that evil is real and must be engaged with goodness and love. In this part of the prayer we ask God to make us as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.

Our prayer ends, For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Do you notice that the prayer ends the way it begins with an emphasis on God's authority and beauty in our lives and in our world. God is both strong and loving, gentle and powerful. God is our friend and Savior, always good, always grace, always love. We surrender to God, we surrender to God's love in this prayer.

After church we will talk more about the mission and vision of our church during the congregational meeting, but since not all of you may be able to stay after today and some of you are watching from home, I want to share that one of the biggest things we can do as a congregation as we enter another year is to pray. We are invited by Jesus himself to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth. As a church we partner in this together.

It is common for people to juxtapose prayer and action in our world. Some people emphasize prayer is the key and others say prayers

sound too sentimental and we should focus more on actions of compassion and justice.

As your pastor, I get the emphasis on both of these ideas. We need both, but I do not feel these ideas should be juxtaposed against each other. Prayer is really important and actions are really important. We need both. So as we live out our vision and mission as a congregation let's deepen our prayer lives and ask God to give us the capacity to love in new ways. Help us be deep in prayer and may our prayer lives empower us to act with compassion in our community and world.

Do you notice that the prayer we looked at today, the Lord's Prayer inspires personal devotion and mission in the world. It includes self reflection, but calls us also to join in God's kingdom work. It is humble but also clear about God's power.

Being people of prayer will be key as we fulfill our vision together.

As a reminder our mission is to be a Christ centered church of grace, hope, peace, and love in Newberg and throughout the world. Our vision is where we are headed in the next three years to help us be faithful to this task. As you look at the vision description, you will notice that we are remaining committed to being and intergenerational church that is growing younger. We wish to take care of all the ages. We are strengthening our small groups, building our congregational care of all ages, and focusing on growing a student ministries program that will help us reach out to younger families, children, youth, and young adults. The vision description is a five page communication tool that seeks to inspire us to look ahead towards where God is taking us. It is not a perfect description, but it covers a lot of what we value as a congregation. We had four main writers of the vision description, plus significant feedback from both our session elders and all of you who turned in questionnaires. Thank you for giving us helpful feedback. I added

one more page of content to our vision description after reading the questionnaires.

Our session will be using the vision description and bringing inspiration from it to help us lead our ministry efforts. We also are keeping all of the questionnaires and documenting all of the great ideas people shared to help inform our ministry.

Friends, I love the Lord's prayer because it reminds us to not do ministry alone, but to seek God's help, to stay humble, to remember the greatness and goodness of God, and to be devoted to prayer and actions of love. We are going to sing a hymn of Charles Wesley in a moment and as we prepare to sing, I am reminded that Charles Wesley, John Wesley, Susanna Wesley their mom, and their father Samuel Wesley, all made an impact in ministry together. They weren't a perfect family, but God used them to make a difference for the kingdom. In God's grace, we also can be used by God to do

something beautiful in Newberg and in partnership with mission work around the world. May we center in Jesus.

One final thought, I love theology and I enjoy reflecting on the role of the church in theological ways, but I was talking with my Pop recently and it dawned on both of us that Jesus was not really very theological. He was very spiritual and he was relational.

My biggest prayer is that at our church people will encounter Jesus and know his love deeply. Jesus is at the center of all we do together. He is the relational glue that connects us in relationship and in mission. And Jesus is not theological, he is relational. The point of our church is to foster close relationship with God. The point of our mission and vision is to fall in love with Jesus and to be love in this world.

For our closing prayer before we sing, I am going to read a prayer shared with me from a former spiritual director friend of mine

named Jim Galluzo. It is entitled A Prayer for receiving and giving
Kindness...

Loving God,

Thank you for your boundless love and compassion for us.

Kindness and mercy have been shown to me in countless ways,
even when I have not deserved it.

I pray that you would fill me with your Spirit so that kindness may
flow from me to others.

Help me to choose kindness in the face of opposition, and to
respond with grace instead of anger.

Guide my words and actions today, that they may be a blessing to
those around me.

Help me to see others through your eyes, with love and
understanding, and to forgive them as you have forgiven me.

May my life reflect your love and grace, and may I be an
instrument of your peace in the world. AMEN.