

**Preaching Christ....  
...by the power of the Holy Spirit  
...and the authority of the Word of God**

**Date:** 23 October 2022  
**Services:** *Across the diocese*  
**Series:** Our Father  
**Passage:** Revelation 21:1-8  
**Title:** Your kingdom come  
**Outline:**

1. Kingdom
2. Kingdom come
3. Praying 'your kingdom come'

- It's true isn't it... that at times some of the things we say in church can be confusing.
- a number of people I speak with get confused by the line in the creed 'we believe in the holy catholic church'.
- and when it comes to the Lord's Prayer, I wonder what you think we are praying things like "your will be done", or "lead us not into temptation"? – as the older version used to say... ///
- we are spending a few weeks making sure we understand and are not confused by the Lord's Prayer.
- Two weeks ago we saw that prayer occurs in the context of **relationship** - God's **children** approaching their **Father**.
- we saw that the **challenge** of prayer is the putting away of our **self-sufficiency** - and see ourselves as utterly **dependent** on **God** - children on their Father in heaven – who is **more** than able to be counted on because he rules heaven!
- Last week we saw that the **focus** of prayer was God's **honour**. As we pray '*hallowed be your name*' we ask "Lord may YOU be honoured". Will you please cause your name to be honoured!
- now it seems to me that this is not a safe, tame little prayer.
- yes, it's very easy to mouth the words without praying them, but to **pray** them and **mean** them is challenging.
- for example - what might it mean for you to pray that God might be honoured?
- it may mean that in the next few weeks, you **won't** be honoured - that is, because you've prayed that **God** would be honoured - perhaps some honour **you** may have received, will get diverted to **God** instead.
- could it be that some **success step** that we are just on the threshold of - we **refuse** - for the sake of **God's honour**? //
- I heard of a man once who was offered a position on Wall St - as one of the Wall St 7. It came with a very attractive salary package and a \$50 Million house to live in.
- he was made the offer over the phone and said he would have to pray about it, talk about it with his wife and call them back.
- He prayed about it, talked it over with his wife and called them back and said - my priorities are Christ first, family next, ministry next, then work: - and I don't think I can take the job! //
- you cannot pray this prayer and **mean** it, without following through with the **implications** in your **life**. ///
- now the line we come to this morning is "Your Kingdom come"
- what do you think we might be praying for? - the **end** of the **world**?

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- Might seem like a strange thing to pray - life is good - you enjoy it - family is special - just at a great stage - I'm doing well - why pray for the **end** of the **world**? A bit **morbid**, isn't it? //
- others may think – especially when you consider Russia and Ukraine – “well the world is doing a good job of bringing about its end all by itself - why hurry it up?”
- three headings this morning as we explore what this line in the Lord's Prayer might mean, and what it might mean for us : **Kingdom, Kingdom Come, and Praying your kingdom Come.**

1. **KINGDOM**

- it may be easier to begin what it's not: it's not geographical like the United Kingdom.
- and it's not automatic like being part of the animal kingdom.
- the Kingdom is simply to be under the rule of Christ - the King - and if you have put your life under the rule of Christ - you're in the Kingdom.
- imagine for a moment a King looking over his harbour with his telescope and he sees a pirate ship.
- he gets into his ship and pulls alongside and drops across a gangplank.
- and he says to the pirates aboard the pirate ship – “although I could blow you out of the water, I'm inviting you to change sides.”
- “if you do, you'll be given a king's pardon, and you'll begin to serve me.”
- Now Christ is the King, men and women are the pirates (so to speak)
- ...and Christ's death on the cross made the gangplank possible.
- and our response is not to stand on the pirate ship - still in rebellion - and say
  - 'yes, we believe in you',
  - nor to stand and nod and say 'yes you're very fine'
  - nor 'I'm going to be good from now on'
  - nor 'I'll wait thanks and see what happens'
  - our response **has** to be to move over to his side.
- and when we do, we are **pardoned**, but not **perfect**
- and we become servants of Christ, not just sayers of creeds
- and when we are on His side, he is our King, we are his people, and we are in the kingdom. //
- Ever since Jesus came 2000 years ago, he has been inviting people to come into his kingdom.
- he said - repent - turn your life around - change sides - trust me, live for me - for the kingdom of God is near. And it was **near** because Jesus the **King** was **near**.
- so that is the Kingdom.
- You enter it by turning from being a pirate – from someone in rebellion against God and the Lord Jesus - to **servicing** and **trusting** him.
- Many here have already entered it. Praise God for the pardon you were given because of the Lord Jesus.
- and if you have **not** yet entered it - why **not**?
- A wonderful pardon and welcome and love and forgiveness awaits you when you decide to stop fighting God and come on board. //

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2. **KINGDOM COME**

- but what do we mean by asking that this kingdom will come?
- the Bible makes it clear that there is a **present** and a **future** aspect to this.
- let's deal with the **future** aspect first.
- God has established his kingdom - but it's not complete yet - he's waiting for more and more people to cross the gangplank.
- the Kingdom will be complete when Jesus returns as he promised and finally conquers those who are opposed to him. Everyone will bow to Jesus the King, and this earth as we know it will be no longer.
- in this prayer, in this line, we are asking God to bring that on. To send Jesus back - to establish the rule of King Jesus finally and publicly. //
- now is that something you want to happen? //
- sure - life for many of in Australia is good - but our televisions and newspapers won't let us escape the fact that the world is in sad and sorry state.
- What is happening in Myanmar right now – in Afghanistan right now – in Ukraine right now... it's all unthinkable... what those responsible are thinking they're achieving is hard to understand... and is hardly going to win people like us over to their cause!
- My reaction is to pray – come Lord Jesus – come! //
- Your kingdom come! //
- Then, closer to home – we are reminded of domestic violence... there seems to have been more murders this year... and then these flooding rains... life is very difficult for many people... plus the recent open hostility to Christians in the public space...
- yes - why not ask God to bring this entire mess to an end?
- If you are under his rule - in the kingdom - from the day he returns, you will enjoy life in perfect relationship with him for all eternity.
- I cannot begin to describe to you how wonderful that will be compared to life now!
- If you think life now is good - it's nothing compared to what living with God and Jesus for eternity will be like - the Bible describes it in terms of a party - feasting, singing - the place where there will no more pain or tears or crying or death any more.
- Yes Father - your kingdom come - bring it on! ///
- but there is also a *present* aspect to this. Because we are really praying that God's kingdom would advance here and now – would grow – be extended.
- We are praying, to take the former illustration, that more and more people would cross the gangplank over to Christ's ship.
- we are expressing our desire that God's kingdom would grow in the sense that more and people would come under the rule of Christ and enter His Kingdom.
- now you want this to happen, don't you?
- It's not God's will that anyone be lost - and it ought not to be ours either!
- surely you want friends, relatives, neighbours to receive the King's pardon as we have?

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- They won't be pardoned if they keep living for themselves and ignore the King.
- surely, it's our desire for our colleagues, our acquaintances to experience God's love and forgiveness and find the joy in serving God that we have found?
- Then this is a good thing to pray.
- and if we really want to see change in our world - peace in our world - if we really want to see the family upheld - if we really want to see the crime rate drop - if we really want to see young people to have a future - it's only going to happen as women and men stop fighting God, submit to him and allow him to change them.
- Despite what you see some Christians fighting for in Parliaments, the only real way we will see change in our community is not through legislation, but when God goes to work on people's hearts and changes them!
- it goes hand in hand with praying 'hallowed be your name' - for the way God's name will really be honoured is when people submit to him as their King!
- Yes, our Father – “your kingdom come” - may your kingdom steadily advance across our city and nation and across the world.
- May it be unstoppable!
- Cause people to come into it.
- May people gladly put themselves under your rule. ///

**3. PRAYING “YOUR KINGDOM COME”**

- but this line also, must not leave our lips without challenging us.
- firstly and obviously, it's nonsense praying this prayer if you are still on the pirate ship - of you are still ignoring God's rule in your life - if your life is all about you and not all about him.
- but many here have been Christians a very long time - and we must not pay lip service to asking for God's Kingdom to be extended, when all the time we are keeping him out of some facet of our lives.
- sometimes it's possible for Christians to say, "God you can rule **this** bit and this bit of my life - but **this** bit is **mine**".
- imagine you're staying in a friend's holiday house - and while you are there, they drop in to pick up a couple of things.
- you apologise for the mess; but they seem completely at home, not surprisingly; and it would never occur to you say - make yourself at home - except for that room - I'd rather you didn't go in there.
- God has moved into our lives at *our* invitation - he must have access to every room - every facet. Work, family, pleasure, attitude to money etc. We must make sure he has the rule over every part of our life.
- but it is also ludicrous to pray this line and then NOT want anything to do with the work of **extending** God's Kingdom.
- As if to say – “God build your kingdom” but “please leave me out of the process!” - living life (as it were) in retreat or hiding our trust in the King away.
- I think I've told the story of when I started work with a video production company - and it was a relief to me for the first few months that nobody knew I was Christian - until my sister gave me a Christian sticker to put on my car.

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- I could have wished her further - and it was two weeks before I had the courage to put it on.
- then I put it on and parked three blocks away and walked the rest of the way to work so nobody from work would see it.
- here I was praying 'your kingdom come' on Sunday - but by my actions on Monday, indicated that I wanted no part in the process!
- so: we must make sure that our lives are under God's rule. The rule of the King.
- we must make sure that our lives are **completely** under God's rule.
- and we must be sure that we are ready to be used by God in whatever way - small or large in helping people to cross the gangplank!
- ...to show people the truth about God's rule and their need to change sides. ///
- **"Your kingdom come" ///**
- do you think you can pray this prayer and mean it?
- do you think on reflection that you are **in** the Kingdom?
- do you **long** to see it come - both in that **future, final** sense in its glorious and wonderful **completion**, and in the **present** sense of seeing people enter the kingdom by bringing their lives under the rule of Jesus?
- and are you willing to stand and be counted as one of the King's servants and by your life and speech, show others the way **into** the kingdom. //
- If you cannot pray it with integrity - don't pray it!
- if you cannot pray with integrity - put whatever needs to be put right in your life until you can pray it and mean it.
- and then pray with all the meaning in the world - yes Father - **YOUR KINGDOM COME!**