

All Age Worship Service

(AAW001)

**The Lord's Prayer 1:
“Our Father in
heaven, hallowed be
your name”**

© Jane Hulme 2015

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



THE LORD'S PRAYER 1: "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME"

Service Aim:

To draw out Jesus' teaching that there is a right and a wrong way to pray, that God is our Father and that we are to honour His name.

Biblical Reference(s):

Matthew 6:5-8, 9-13

Outline of Service:

- Welcome: Introduce the theme
- Opening Prayer:
- Opening songs: A couple of songs to draw people into worship (See Appendix 1)
- Warm up: Dramatic presentation of wrong ways to pray (Matt 6:5-8)
- Talk 1: There is a right way and a wrong way to pray
- Drawing out with the congregation right and wrong ways of praying
- Reading: Matthew 6:9-13
- Talk 2: "Our Father in heaven"
- God is Father, not head-teacher, traffic warden, Father Christmas....
 - What sort of Father is he?
- Reading or Film: "Father's Love letter"
- Song: Song about God being Father (See Appendix 1)
- Talk 3: "Hallowed be your name"
- What do we need to handle with care? (using live animals, delicate items etc)
- Film: "Oh my Larry"
- Songs: Song/s to honour the name of the Lord (See Appendix 1)
- Confession:
- Prayers:
- Summary: There is a right way and a wrong way to pray
- We have the privilege of calling God Father as we are His children
 - Our Father wants us to handle His holy name with care.
- Final song: A final song (See Appendix 1)
- Blessing:

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the first two lines of “The Lord’s Prayer” during the service ie “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name”

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Would you meet with us through your Spirit,
Teach us through your Word,
Show us where we need to change,
And give us all we need to serve you in the world.
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1.

Warm up:

The warm up is a simple drama called “Wrong ways to pray.” (See Appendix 2) It has been written to open up people’s eyes to what Jesus says about the wrong and the right ways to pray.

Talk 1:

I wonder if you have ever thought that there is a right way and a wrong way to pray.

- During the drama we just saw we heard Jesus say that there are right ways to pray and wrong ways to pray.
- Let’s see if we can remember them.

Record people’s answers on either a flip-chart or on a projected screen. The sort of answers you are looking for are:

a) Right ways to pray

- Secretly in your room
- Asking simply and honestly for what you need
- Praying from the heart

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
© Jane Hulme 2015

b) Wrong ways to pray

- Publicly so that everyone can see your “holiness”
- Babbling and using loads of fancy words to impress others or God
- Speaking words without any heart involvement

I wonder whether you recognise yourself in any of these ways of praying.

- Do you ever make a show of praying in front of other people
- or do you tend to find a quiet place where you can be alone with God?
- Jesus is not saying here that we shouldn't pray together....far from it....he is talking about not making a show in front of other people!

Do you ask God simply for what you need

- or do you think you need to use lots of fancy words to talk with Him?

Do you pray honestly from your heart,

- or do you simply say rattle off a few prayers and hope God will answer them?

If we are going to grow in our relationship with God, we need to learn the right ways to pray.....

When Jesus was on earth, his disciples who were his closest friends wanted to learn how to pray in the right way, so one day when Jesus had finished praying one of them said to Him, “Lord teach us to pray”. (Luke 11:1) and this is what He said:

Reading:

The reading is Matthew 6:9-13 and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Talk 2:

Our Father in heaven (v.9)

This talk works really well if it is illustrated with the appropriate pictures using power-point or even the service leader using props (eg police-man's helmet, teddy bear, Father Christmas outfit etc)

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “Our Father in heaven,” not “Our policeman or traffic warden in heaven”

- who is looking down, waiting to punish us whenever we do anything wrong.

Jesus didn't teach us to pray, “Our puppeteer in heaven,”

- who controls us and leaves us with no free will.

He didn't teach us to pray, “Our teddy bear in heaven,”

- who is completely irrelevant to our lives.

Jesus didn't teach us to pray, “Our bearded old man on a cloud,”

- who is weak and powerless.

He didn't teach us to pray, “Our Father Christmas,”

- whose duty it is to give us everything we want.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father

- because the truth is that we have a heavenly Father who loves each one of us so much that He has made it possible for us to be His children.

So what sort of Father is God like? Is he loving or critical?

- Is he demanding or accepting?
- Is he trying to take all the fun out of life or is He good?

The Bible shows us that Father God loves us, accepts us, treasures us, delights in us and wants to not only be involved in our lives, but involve us in His.

- Listen to these Bible verses that have been put together in the form of a “Love Letter” from your Heavenly Father.

Reading or Film:

The words of the “Father’s love letter”² can be found online. You could either use the words as a reading or you could show one of the videos.

End this section by re-iterating that Father God has lavished His love on us and wants us to be secure in knowing that we are His children.

Song:

Song about God being Father as per Appendix 1

Talk 3:

Hallowed be your name (v.9)

So having prayed “*Our Father in heaven,*” Jesus then teaches us to pray, “*Hallowed be your name*”

- Father God’s name is very holy and we are to hold it in awe and respect,
- handling it with great care.

You know there are all sorts of things in life that we have to handle with care aren’t there?

- Look at this egg.....(*Show an egg in its shell*)
- It has a very thin shell and if I started to throw it around and didn’t handle it carefully it would smash wouldn’t it and make a terrible mess?

Look at this rabbit/hamster/guinea pig (*if you can get a live animal it will be memorable*)

- We have to handle little animals like rabbits with great care don’t we.....or they could get hurt.

What other things do we need to handle with great care?
(*Leave room for answers*)

God’s name is far more precious than all of these things.

- His name is holy and we need to handle it with great care.
- so let’s make sure that we never ever use His name as a swear word, or use the OMG language that so many people do.....
- Watch this.

² You can find “The Father’s love letter” at <http://www.fathersloveletter.com/Media/>

Film:

A one minute film called “Oh my Larry”³ works well as a way of challenging people about how they use God’s name. At the end of the film re-iterate that we need to handle God’s name with care and encourage people to honour the Lord’s name by worshipping Him.

Songs:

Song/s to honour the name of the Lord as per Appendix 1

Confession and Absolution:

Move into a time of Confession inviting people to think about when they haven’t honoured the Lord’s name through what they have said or done.

Lead into a Confession prayer. This could be:

- an informal Confession prayer led by the service leader or
- a Confession prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship” that the congregation can say together.

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution. This could be:

- an informal prayer led by the service leader or
- an Absolution prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship.”

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. You might like to begin each prayer with the word, “Father.....”

Three or four simple prayers would work well, the first of which could be a prayer of thanksgiving to the Father for His love, mercy, grace, goodness etc. End with the Lord’s Prayer.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- i) Jesus says that there are right ways to pray and wrong ways to pray.
- ii) God wants us to find a place to spend time with Him alone, and then speak to Him from our hearts, sharing simply and honestly.
- iii) We have the privilege of calling God Father as we are His children
- iv) Our Father wants us to handle His holy name with care.

Final song:

A final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

May you leave here knowing that the Lord who loves you, delights to hear and answer your prayers. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

³ You can purchase “Oh my Larry” from Sermon Spice at www.sermonspice.com/product/35812/oh-my-larry
© Jane Hulme 2015

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Big family of God (Becky Drake © 2007 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- God immortal invisible (Lou & Nathan Fellingham & Busbee © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Our God is a great big God (Jo and Nigel Hemming © 2001 Vineyard Songs)
- Praise my soul the King of heaven (Henry F Lyte)
- Praise is rising (Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown © 2005 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

ii) A song about God being Father. Ideas include:

- Father God I come to you (Alan Price © 1996 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Father God I wonder how I managed to exist (Ian Smale © 1984 Glorie Music/Thankyou Music)
- Father, I can call you Father (Danny Daniels © 1989 Mercy Publishing)
- Father to you (What grace) (Graham Kendrick © 2001 Make Way Music)
- Father we love you (Arranged Margaret Evans © 1980 Thankyou Music)
- Who I have become in you (Highly favoured) (Paul Baloche, Steven Curtis-Chapman, Stuart Garrard, Israel Houghton, Tim Hughes, Graham Kendrick, Andy Park, Matt Redman, Martin Smith, Michael W. Smith, Chris Tomlin, Darlene Zschech © 2008 GloWorks Ltd for CompassionArt)

iii) Song/s to honour the name of the Lord. Ideas include:

- Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty (Nathan Fellingham © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Love the Lord with all your heart (Nick and Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Name above all names (Neil Bennetts © 2000 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeve & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)
- You alone are worthy (Al Gordon, Luke Hellebronth & Hanif Williams © 2009 Thankyou Music)
- You are the Sovereign "I am" (Brian Doerksen © 1999 Vineyard Songs)

iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- Now thank we all our God (Martin Rinkart)
- Prayer is like a telephone (Paul Crouch and David Mudie © 1991 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- The blessing of God (John MacPherson © 1996 J. MacPherson)
- You are my vision (Arr. Rend Collective Experiment © 2011 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 - Drama - “Wrong ways to pray”

Cast: Hypocrite (H), Babbler (B), Mute (M), Religious (R), Off stage voice (O)
Props: The actors wear a piece of card around their neck that says, “Hypocrite,” “Babbler,” “Mute,” and “Religious.”

.....

(Enter H from back of church/room. Speaks in loud and pompous voice as walks towards front of church/room. If there is a pulpit H goes into it. Alternatively find a way to elevate H.)

H: Attention everyone....please be quiet, for I am about to pray.
 You do realise that I am an expert in prayer.....I should say, in the **art** of prayer.....because it is indeed an art. Not everyone knows how to pray, but I do....

(In a big gesture puts hands together held out in front, and says in a loud voice)

God Almighty, victorious, gracious, and faithful. Here I am once again.
 Your humble servant bringing my supplications before you today
 Supplicating earnestly, honestly, with integrity and wisdom
 Deeply in awe of your inestimable worth.
 Grant your servant riches from your benevolent and restorative heart
 Omnipotent and omnipresent God. Amen

(H freezes)

O: Jesus says: When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

(H exits where he has spoken from and stands in front of the congregation. Enter B from back or side of church/room speaking the following words very quickly as they walk towards the front. They then stand in front of congregation at a distance from H)

B: You know Lord all about the situation I am in....I simply cannot pay the gas bill. And that is because I had to lend Joey £6 last week and he hasn't paid me back and then it was my mother's birthday and I had to buy her a present, and any old present wouldn't do – it had to be an Abercrombie and Fitch sweatshirt in pink with flowers on the front – and that nearly emptied my bank account, and then of course I had to buy a bottle of wine, well if I am honest it was 2 bottles of wine to take to my friends' party and then I had to take my dog to the vet because it had fleas – oh they were everywhere, even on my bed, because I can't help myself letting her into my bed occasionally even though she does make a mess of my sheets – anyway the vet cost a fortune....and now I can't pay my gas bill. Amen.

(B freezes)

O: Jesus says: When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

(B joins H. Enter M from back of church/room and stands in front of congregation at a distance from H&B)

M: You may wonder why I am not praying – well the answer is, I don't need to. God knows everything without me telling him what I need, so why bother praying?

(M freezes)

O: Jesus says: Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives.

(M joins B and H. Enter R from back of church/room & stands in front of congregation at a distance from H, B&M)

R: It's 10.30am Sunday morning.... time to pray.

(Puts hands together then rattles through the Lord's Prayer in a monotone as rapidly as possible without drawing breath)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

(R freezes)

O: Jesus says: These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
 Jesus says that there is a right and a wrong way to pray. Have you ever thought of that?

(Exit all)