

The ACC Bulletin

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“...Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...”

(see Matthew 6:5-15)

As we enter Lent (the 40 days before Easter), let us talk about prayer. Christians have always called this the Lord’s Prayer, and it is the Lord’s in the sense that he gave it. But it is more accurate to call it the disciples’ prayer, or even our prayer. **Prayer, simply put, is talking to God.** In these verses Jesus begins by teaching us how we should not pray (5-8), and then how we should pray (9-13). (1). **Prayer should not be addressed to man but to God** (5,6). The problem is not public prayer, but motives directed toward other people rather than toward God. The point is not where we pray. At issue here is, why we pray – to be seen by people or to be heard by God. Scripture nowhere condemns public prayer, nor individual prayer offered in a public place. Jesus prayed publicly. What Jesus condemns here is having one’s private devotions in the most public place, with the intention of being seen and honored by the people. Jesus is condemning hypocrisy. (2). **Prayer should not be measured by multiplication of words but by sincerity** (vv.7,8). This is not a condemnation of persistence in prayer. In Luke 18:1-8 Jesus commended the perseverance of the widow in prayer, and also recommended persistence. He is condemning empty meaningless repetition, and the notion that the best prayers are the longest prayers. (3). **Prayer should follow Jesus’ pattern** (9-13). In Luke 11:2-4 we read that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Jesus gave them this prayer as a model. “After this manner ... pray” or “Pray like this.” Jesus did not say, “Pray these exact words every time you pray.” While we usually bring our own needs to God in prayer first, and then perhaps think of God and his interest, Jesus reverses the order. First, thy name, thy kingdom, thy will; then, give us, lead us, deliver us. Praise should always come first. “Hallowed be your name,” means “let your name be holy.” Respect for God’s name because God’s name signifies His person. Second is a commitment to God’s kingdom. This expresses the hope of God’s people throughout all of history. Third is submission to God’s will. These two are linked in the sense that wherever the kingdom of heaven exerts its presence, God’s will is experienced. Fourth is our physical needs. Jesus denounces anxiety about the future, and teaches relying on God for all our physical needs. We are to be concerned only with one day at a time. Fifth is forgiveness of sins. “Debt” means sin. Sixth is temptation. The word for “temptation” can also mean “testing.” We are told in James that God does not tempt His people, so this could mean that when we are tested, we should pray it does not lead us to do evil, which comes from Satan.

(Continued on the back...)

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(4). **Prayer should affect our behavior, not just our mood** (14,15). Prayer may make us feel better. But it is not all there is to our prayer life. Prayer should affect the way we relate to other people. If we have received forgiveness from God, it will be difficult not to extend it to others. Something is seriously wrong if we cannot do this.

As a practical application, I would like to leave you with this outline that I borrowed from another pastor, that I think can be helpful in bringing balance to the way we pray. When we are praying we are asking for God's power to be released and demonstrated, so think "**AMPS.**" **Appreciate.** Take time to appreciate the Father's greatness, His love, and His goodness to you. Thank Him, praise Him and worship Him. **Mission.** Pray (by name) for relatives, friends and others who have not yet come to faith in Christ. Pray for missionaries as they spread the Good News around the world. **Physical Needs.** You or others might have financial and health needs. Jesus tells us to ask for God's help and supply. God cares about what concerns us. **Spiritual Needs.** Confess your sins. Ask for a forgiving heart. Pray for your own spiritual health and protection; pray for that of others.

Friends, may we all learn to pray to the Father in the name of the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor Makarios Darawi

Holy Week

The week that begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday is called Holy Week. We are planning to have the following worship services.

Palm Sunday, April 1, the Sunday School students will participate in the morning worship service.

Good Friday Service, April 6, Choir Concert, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday, April 8, The Easter morning worship service is a family service. The Sunday school students will begin worship with the parents in the Sanctuary, and be dismissed for a special Easter lesson.

Easter Breakfast, Sunday April 8, The annual Easter Breakfast sponsored by the ACC youth group (ACYF), will be held on Easter morning, April 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. tickets may be purchased at the door: \$6.00 for young and old alike.

Easter Flowers


Those wishing to arrange for an Easter flower to place in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please call the church office. The deadline for placing an order is Wednesday, March 28. The lilies are \$16.00 each, and the tulips are \$13.00 each.

Scholarship Application

- *A.C.C.* Provides scholarship through its Educational Fund for fulltime college and university students of the church community. For an application please call the church office.
- *Detroit Armenian Women's Club* is offering \$1,500 scholarship in memory of Hranoush Dabanian, to college students for the fall 2012. For more information and to request an application form please contact Carole Basmadjian at DAWC07@aol.com.

Daily Bible Reading E100 Challenge

The Essential 100 Challenge is an exciting church-wide Bible reading program. The Challenge is based on 100 carefully selected short Bible passages, 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament that help you get the big picture of the Bible. Pastor Mak is looking for ACC members who will join him in taking the challenge.



Important Dates

March 11	Daylight Savings Time
March 23	ACC Women's Lenten Luncheon
April 1	Palm Sunday
April 6	Good Friday
April 8	Easter Sunday
April 8	ACYF Easter Breakfast
April 24	Armenian Genocide Remembrance
May 8	Mother's Day Banquet
June 17	Father's Day Luncheon

CHURCH CALENDAR

Weekly

Choir Practice, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Children's Library, Every Sunday

Youth Group, Friday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Monthly

Children's Message, (First Sunday of the month. Parents bring your children into the worship service.)

Community Groups, (2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

Adult Bible Study, (1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)

ACC Women's Fellowship, (Second Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)

Board of Trustees Meeting, (Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.)

Board of Deacons Meeting, (Last Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)

Prayer Meeting, (Third Sunday of the month following the worship service).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

Community Groups

The next Community Groups will be held on Wednesday, March 14 at the Darawi home at 7:30 pm. and Friday, March 16 at the Arslanian home at 7:30 pm. Please join us for fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

ACC Youth Group News

The youth had a great Superbowl party on February 5 at the ACC. Special thank you to the volunteer parents and to all those who attended.

We would like to have regular meetings on Fridays, but we need more support and commitment from the families to see this happen. Please contact Pastor Mak or Michael Banerian or Daniel Bayleran with your feedback.

ACC Women's Fellowship Annual Lenten Luncheon

The A.C.C. Women's Fellowship is sponsoring their annual Lenten Luncheon on Friday, March 23 at 12:00 noon. Admission is \$15 per person. Come enjoy a beautiful program. Both men and women are welcome. To RSVP please contact the church office.

97th Anniversary Of The Armenian Genocide

A special church service will be held on April 24th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Dearborn to commemorate the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. All are invited.

Reminders!

Is your anniversary, birthday or graduation approaching? Why not share your celebration with the church family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour. Please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

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