



**Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge**  
**Pentecost 7 Sunday, July 27, 2025**  
**Worship at Home**

Email: [northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com](mailto:northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com) Website: <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

**Call to Worship**

**L:** “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

**P:** **We come to worship, seeking to know God more deeply, to welcome God’s kingdom, and to glimpse heaven here and now.**

**L:** “Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

**P:** **We come to follow the way of Jesus—to receive daily grace, to grow in forgiveness, and to live by faith, hope, and love.**

**L:** “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.”

**P:** **We come to live under God’s mercy and guidance. Let us worship God together, shaped by the prayer Jesus taught us.**

Hymn 293

**Come, thou almighty King**

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and The Lord’s Prayer**

Mother and Father God, Source of all life and love,  
 We come to worship you. We call you by human names and words, but no word can contain you,  
 for you are spirit, unseen and eternal.

Yet through your Son, Jesus, we have come to know you—your heart, your kingdom, and your will for our lives, especially through the prayer he taught us to pray.

But we confess, O God, that we often forget your presence in our daily lives. Fear, pain, mistrust, worry, and a lack of compassion cloud our hearts and distract our minds. We forget your will for how we should live together in love. We ask for more than we need, and too often forget to give thanks. We seek worldly power and security rather than trusting in your generosity. We hold back the bread we’ve been given, and withhold forgiveness, even though we ourselves have received it freely.

Hear us now as we make our confession to you and one another in the silence. (silent pause)

Merciful God, You know us better than we know ourselves. Forgive our restless hearts and selfish ways. Transform us—heart and mind. Strengthen our faith, inspire our steps, and by your Spirit, reshape our desires to reflect your will each day.

And now, with humility and trust, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever.” Amen.

Hymn 746

**What a friend we have in Jesus**

### Children of God Moment

#### Prayer for Understanding

Gracious God,

as we listen to your Word, open our hearts to the wisdom of the prayer Jesus taught us. Shape our lives through your truth, that we may trust you more deeply and live each day by your will. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

**Responsive Psalm 25: 1-11, 20-21**

**Matthew 5: 7-16; Luke 11: 1-13**

## SERMON

### The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is the best-known Christian prayer in the world and is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The prayer appears twice in the New Testament: A longer version is found at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:1–7:29), and a shorter version, today's text of Luke 11:2–4, responds to his disciples' request, “Teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

The petitions of the Lord's Prayer in the two gospels are different from each other. The version we recite in worship services in church is a little different again, in that we add a longer ending found in some of the later manuscripts of the gospels. This tells us two things. First, Jesus repeated his prayer a number of times and used words that were slightly different. It should thus not surprise us that we have two of those versions in our gospels. This should also mean that we should not be quick to judge other churches' versions of the Lord's prayer as wrong or deficient. Whether people use the word debts, trespasses or sins should make no difference. In fact, these words are all translations, and even in the ancient manuscripts, there are some variations.

The first line of the Lord's prayer is **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.** The New Testament word for father is “Abba.” It is a term of intimacy. We call someone “Abba” if we feel close to them. “Abba” may technically be male, but God is spiritual, invisible, and thus non-gendered. We can use male or female language to make God personal, but God is beyond the human concepts of male or female. This means whether we pray to God as Father or Mother, it makes no difference, so long as we approach God as one with whom we can be intimate and personal.

So, God is everywhere, including in a dimension of reality called heaven. The word heaven points metaphorically to invisible dimensions of reality or spiritual and emotional experiences. When we pray to God in heaven, we sometimes imagine a place above us. In fact, heaven is a

dimension of reality invisible to us, but all around us. Our loved ones who are with God in heaven are also all around us if they are with God. We cannot see them, and that's the point. It is another dimension of reality. But the important point is that heaven is a reality ruled by God. Heaven is set over against earth. Earth is not ruled by God in the same way.

To speak of God being in heaven means that God is all around us, ready to be engaged in our lives, so that we can experience the power of faith, hope and love, inspiring and saving us in the midst of it all. For this reason, we need to experience glimpses of heaven here and now before we enter it after this life. We need heaven to penetrate and inspire our lives with courage and direction so that we might defeat the evil that often grabs hold of us.

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven:**

What we pray here is that God's kingdom, which we call heaven, will become increasingly a part of this earth. We ask for heaven to penetrate our hearts and lives as well as the world around us. We pray this, trusting that someday this will be the way things are. We pray that we will feel inspired by it and become more compassionate toward others, as well as more energized to work for justice for others, just as much as for ourselves.

Prayer is the spiritual soil upon and by which we grow, learn, and transform ourselves into Christlike beings. It forms our spirits and gives energy to our hearts. Our priorities and concerns are shaped and energized as we pray.

**Give us this day our daily bread:**

We need bread, not only for our souls, but also for our bodies and the bodies of those we care about. God doesn't wave a magic wand to provide our daily bread. Instead, God works inside us to energize us to work in faith and hope and to love others practically as we go about trying to earn and bake our bread. But our practical and spiritual concerns are the same as God's.

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors:**

To be in debt means that we have failed to give others their due. We are indebted and need forgiveness, even as we need to forgive those who have failed to give us our due. To think in these terms is to live within a very different reality, the world of God's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. As Christians, we are called to live our everyday lives by the values of the kingdom of love.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**

As imperfect and desire-centred beings, we are often tempted by our bodily needs, driven by fear, greed, and a lack of compassion for others. God doesn't tempt us. Instead, the desires of life itself tempt us. We need to be spiritually protected so that we do not succumb to temptations that would lead us away from God's will for us. Another way of asking God to "Lead us not into temptation" is to ask God to protect us from falling into bad choices due to our egoism and self-centeredness. We need to be prevented from falling, but we also need help to get up and find our path when we have fallen. That is what it means to pray, "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever:**

The world where we live can be destructive, dangerous, and fearsome. But the Lord's prayer empowers us to live with the kind of faith, hope, and love that swims in the waters of heaven. Our ultimate destiny in this and the afterlife is to live in heaven, even as we live physically in this world. With the right kind of faith, hope and love, we can make good choices. We can find assurance and confidence in the face of our fears and worries. We can find a way back when we fail and fall. And we can trust that we are loved eternally, even though we will all die one day. How powerful is that!

Here is the Lord's Prayer again, only this time in my own words: Graceful and compassionate God, our Father and Mother, the Source of all life and love, you are above us, around us, and inside us. May we always recognize, honour, and respect you in our thoughts, words, and behaviour.

May the spirit of heaven grow and flourish in this world where we live.

Give us what we need to live abundantly. And provide us with what we need when our bodies fail us.

As imperfect and limited beings, we need your forgiveness till we finish our human journey, and we need the forgiveness of others, even as we need to forgive others constantly, also.

Please guide and protect us from our worst temptations and fears, and rescue us from the destructive outcomes of our bad choices and mistakes.

You have the life-giving, life-healing, life-nourishing, and life-flourishing love, wisdom, inspiration, and strength, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's prayer is a simple prayer that even our children can memorize and pray along with us. Make use of this prayer every day. Maybe you can put the Lord's Prayer in your own words and make it a daily spiritual practice to recite it, to discover who God is, what heaven as God's kingdom means, and how we need to live together with others here and now.

May we all be blessed by the Lord's Prayer when we recite it in our Sunday worship, but also every day on our beds in the morning or at night. Amen.

Hymn 443 (R)      **I need thee every hour**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God,

You give us our daily bread and all we need. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. Use them to bring your kingdom closer to earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and for the People**

Creator God,

Mother and Father, Source of all life, we thank you for creating us and all that is, even though we do not fully understand your mystery and your ways.

We thank you for the prayer Jesus taught us—a gift that reveals who you are, shapes our faith, calls us to live in community, and invites us to build your kingdom through reconciliation, forgiveness, and love.

O God, we look around and see greed and anger, the striving for power, and hatred destroying lives. In the land of Israel and Palestine, there is a relentless cycle of violence, inflicting deep pain and suffering. We pray for Jews, Muslims, and Christians living through this tragedy—for those who mourn loved ones, and for all who long for peace. Bring an end to the conflict, and let justice and mercy take root in the land of Christ's birth.

We also pray for other nations caught in conflict and unrest—for the people of Ukraine and Iran, and for all those affected by natural disasters: those fleeing wildfires, those suffering in the scorching heat, and those grieving after devastating floods. May your love be known through the help and kindness of others.

Closer to home, we remember those without work, those without secure housing, and those struggling in poverty amid plenty. We pray for those facing discrimination because of their race, religion, or identity, and for all who feel pushed to the margins. For the lonely, the discouraged, and those who feel their lives are barren, we lift them up to you in prayer.

We remember especially those in our church family who are grieving, or no longer able to worship among us: Mieke Mander, Rose Molnar, Catherine Tirpko, and Fran Johnson. May all in hospitals or care homes know your loving presence through the compassion of those around them.

For those who are burdened with worry, anger, or fear of the future, we pray for your peace that passes all understanding. We pause now in silence to lift up those whose needs rest heavily on our hearts. (silent pause)

We thank you, loving God, for the gift of healing, and we give thanks for Jim Aulph's successful surgery and recovery. May he continue to grow in strength and wellness.

Loving God, may these prayers not be empty words, but signs of our longing to serve you more faithfully with our bodies, minds, emotions, and spirits. We pray all this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 461

**Be thou my vision**

**BENEDICTION**

May the love of God our Creator, the grace of Christ our Redeemer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit go with you, that you may live each day in trust, share daily bread with joy, and walk in the way of God's kingdom. Amen.

**Sung Response- Go Now In Peace**  
**Postlude**

**We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional  
 Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*Next Sunday Service, August 3, at 10:00 am at Rockway**

**\*Summer Pulpit Supply – August Blessings:** While Rev. Jacob is away on vacation during the month of August, we are blessed to welcome a wonderful lineup of guest preachers who will lead us in worship and share God's Word each Sunday: **Rev. Martin Wehrman** – August 3 & 10; **Rev. Nicole Reid** – August 17 & 24; and **Mr. Kent Reinolds** – August 31. Come with open hearts and give thanks for those who will bless us through their presence and preaching.

**\*Watermelon Party on September 7:** Back in May, Jacob planted watermelon seedlings in his garden in faith, hoping to share a harvest at summer's end. On Sunday, September 7, we invite everyone to a Watermelon Party following worship! Come enjoy sweet watermelon, joyful fellowship, and give thanks for God's blessings—whether expected or delightfully unexpected.

**\*Presbytery Pulpit Exchange:** On Sunday, September 14, we are excited to take part in a special Presbytery of Niagara pulpit exchange! Rev. Jacob will be leading worship at Kirk on the Hill in Fonthill, while we warmly welcome Rev. Anita Van Nest to bless our Rockway and North Pelham congregations with God's Word. This meaningful exchange helps us grow closer as a Presbytery family, allowing us to get to know one another more deeply as ministers and congregations. Let us worship with joy and gratitude for the Spirit that unites us across our churches!

**\*Wednesday Bible study – Summer Break:** Our Wednesday Bible Study, led by Diane McMillan at 10:00 AM at North Pelham Church, will pause for the summer and resume on **September 10**. We look forward to gathering again in the fall!

**\*Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

**\*Connect with your Minister Jacob for pastoral visits.** Reach Jacob at [jacoblee0501@gmail.com](mailto:jacoblee0501@gmail.com) or 289-213-2797.