

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

God of All People

TUNE: Morning Has Broken (BUNESSAN)
Exodus 34:5-7; Psalm 104:27-30; Isaiah 40:25;
Matthew 5:43-48; 10:7-8; Acts 17:24-28; Ephesians 3:14-15

♩ = 126

C C G C Dm F G7 F G Fadd9 F C

1. God of all peo - ple, Fa - ther Cre - a - tor, Breath of all
 2. Lord of all lead - ers, Friend of the hum - ble, Bread for the
 3. God of com - pas - sion, We are Your chil - dren, We are Your

Em Em7 F C D7 G7sus G7 C G/B Am Am/F C/G C/E

be - ing, Hope of each heart, Joy of all learn - ing, Spring of all
 hun - gry, Wine for the soul, Un - fail - ing wis - dom, Un - end - ing
 ser - vants, We are Your hands. Rich in Your Spir - it, Rich in Your

Am Fm6 Ab C Gsus Em F C/E Dm7 G Em/G G7 C

lov - ing, Light of all vis - ion, Beau - ty of art,
 good - ness, Un - yield - ing mer - cy, Gen - tle con - trol,
 bless - ings, Help us to live as Your love de - mands.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Gaelic Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D.

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TOPICS: All Saints Day; Church; God Our Father; God's Love; Justice;
Missions & Evangelism; Praise & Worship; Serving in Christ's Name

LEAD-IN #1: "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'... 'We are his offspring.'" (Acts 17:24-28, NIV)

LEAD-IN #2: (Continued)

Pray to the Father of All

ALL:

Why should we pray for secular institutions and secular life?
Shouldn't we focus our prayers on God's work?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.
All that is, is God's work.

LEADER:

Romans 13 says, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... The authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." (vv.1, 6-7, NIV)

ALL:

Why should we pray for political leaders?
Shouldn't we focus on the work of salvation?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.
All that is, is God's work.
Political leaders are part of God's work, and God's love includes them.

LEADER:

Paul told Pastor Timothy, "I urge... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:1-5, NIV)

ALL:

Shouldn't the Church focus on getting people saved,
not on meeting their temporary physical needs?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.
All that is, is God's work.
Jesus came to paint a living picture of our unseen Father.
He showed that our Father's love isn't limited to our spiritual welfare.
He cares about our health, our food, our human relationships...
even about having enough wine for a wedding.
We are His disciples.
We are His brothers and sisters.
We are children of the same Father.
God has called us and equipped us to live His love.

LEADER:

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He told them: "As you go, preach this message, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8, NIV)

ALL:

But shouldn't our concerns and prayers focus closer to home?
Shouldn't we bloom where we are planted?

CONGREGATION:

God is the Creator and Lord of all.
All that is, is God's work.
People of other countries, cultures, and religions
may seem far away and strange to us.
They are not far away and strange to the Father of all.

LEADER:

In Ephesians 3, verses 14-21, Paul prays to the Father of the entire human family. Every family, every clan, tribe, culture or country draws its connectedness from the Father of all. Paul urges us to stretch our minds and hearts to include the full reach of our Father's love. He wants us to comprehend not just the depth of God's life and love in our own hearts, but also the breadth of His love in all the earth—a broadness that has no boundaries. God's love reaches to all our race, and that is the love He calls us to live.

Our connection with our own family, with our friends, community and denomination, is only part of our larger connection with all people. As we begin to grasp how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ, we will love and pray for all the human race as for our own brothers and sisters.

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Pray as One of His Children

When I first started using the Lord's Prayer on a daily basis, I was struck by one fact: there was no place for intercession. There was nothing that allowed me to pray for the needs of others.

Then I noticed that throughout the prayer, it's not "I" or "my" but "we" and "our." Yes, I can still pray for my personal concerns. "I" am included in the "we," and my Father asks me to come to Him. But the point is this: My prayers can be as broad or as narrow as my concerns at the time. My petitions can be personal. They can be universal.

How broad are your prayers? Or to ask it a different way, how low are your eyes? Are they focused entirely on yourself? Are they raised a little higher to take in those few immediately around you? Or have you looked up and realized that you are surrounded by an entire world of need, an entire race that's lost, desperate, hungry, and dying? God is our Father. Every person is His as well. He is deeply conscious of them. Are you?

There is nothing wrong with praying for personal and family concerns. But each of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer challenges us to lift our eyes, our hearts, and our prayers toward other people near and far. God is our Father. We all need His will in our lives, His daily provision, His forgiveness, His protection from evil.

Pray to your Father not just as His child but as one of His children.

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