



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*March 8, 2020*

### Pray Like This – The Lord's Prayer

Bible Reference: Matthew 6:5-15

One afternoon I got a call from Pastor Chris as I was leaving Mindy's parents house. He was super excited. His energy and excitement was not shocking, but the new idea he was sharing with me was. Pastor Chris suggested that Mt. Calvary and All Nations do a series together, one that he wrote. Without hesitation I said, "I'm in!"

Pastor Chris and I talk about intentional relationships all the time. We ask how All Nations, his church in University City, and Mt. Calvary can partner together more efficiently and effectively. I am also having these same type of conversations with Pastor Geoff of Christ Fellowship Bible Church (the church who rents our lower level), and Jud, a father in our preschool and pastor of Christ Church, who is about to be the owner of a church building that has been in Brentwood for a long time. These days, partnering with people the community is becoming more commonplace to me, but I haven't planned a series with another pastor since I left St. John (now called Pathfinder).

After I hung up with Pastor Chris, I thought more about the details. All Nations lives an entirely different model of church than Mt. Calvary. Pastor Chris has a large group gathering once a month, where we do it every week. Pastor Chris doesn't have midweek services every week during Lent, we do. He wanted to start the series on the second Wednesday in Lent as opposed to the first, so what was I going to do about the first Wednesday. These differences were beginning to feel challenging rather than exciting.

Intentional relationships are no doubt both exciting and challenging. In many ways they are like a marriage relationship. Mindy often asks me to recount the time I first met her; it was on a blind date set up by my seminary professor. I did not believe the date was going to work out, but I did not want to say no to him. To my surprise, I was blown away when I met Mindy. She was so beautiful and we had so much in common. Since I was literally months away from my first call, so many decisions needed to be made about life and about our relationship. Most days it felt as if things were coming to fast. It was challenging, and required lots of compromise, but there was something about Mindy I knew was amazing and worth all the effort.

When it sinks in that 3 churches in the St. Louis area are doing a series *together*, it is the most beautiful thing in the world! This is what Jesus would want. The whole theme of this

series, *Pray Like This*, comes from what Jesus said to His disciples when they asked Him how they should pray. If Jesus were to share His prayer requests with us today, I am convinced that He would tell us to pray for churches to work together rather than being territorial, and to learn the compromise that partnership takes despite the practical challenges.

If you were with us last Sunday you received a prayer kit. If you didn't get one, grab one this week. Inside are a 40-day prayer calendar and a 3-minute timer. The challenge is to pray for the topic of that day for 3 minutes. The topics of the day are prayers that Jesus would request us to pray for, rather than offering up our own requests. In the beginning of this 40-day challenge we will dive into the Lord's Prayer, that same prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. Throughout this Lenten journey may Jesus guide and grow your prayer life.

*Gods Peace,*

*Pastor Will*