

Dads!

St Nicholas Church
Sighthill
20th June 2021

Proudly refusing to ask
directions since 1845!

day by day despite our failure to love you in return.
Father God. We praise you.

Teach us to live as your children – to hear your voice, obey your instruction, to respond to your goodness, to bear your name with pride, to share with others, through word and deed, the joy you have given us.

And finally, receive our thanks, for the fathers you have given us, all they have meant to us, all they have given, and all they have done in so many ways. Father God. We praise you, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

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 &
FORGIVE US OUR *DEBTS* AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS &
LEAD US NOT INTO *TEMPTATION* BUT
DELIVER US FROM *EVIL*

FOR *THINE* IS THE *KINGDOM*
AND THE AND THE *POWER*
AND THE *GLORY*
FOREVER and *EVER* AMEN

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 68:4-5, 19)

Come, sing praises to God! Rejoice in his presence! For He is our God: a Father to the fatherless, and the defender of all who need protection; the One in whom the lonely find a home, and the prisoner finds release. Bless the Lord, the God of our salvation, who sustains and strengthens us, day after day! Let's worship God together!

Hymn: Praise my soul, the King of Heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xra6ofilXz0>

Opening prayer and Lord's prayer

Loving God, we come on this Father's Day, reminded that you are the Father of us all. You have been with us from our birth, guiding, nurturing and sustaining us.

Father God. We praise you.

You have taught us and brought us to maturity, always concerned about our welfare, constantly seeking the best for us. **Father God. We praise you.**

Whenever we have needed you, you have been there, willing to listen and advise, yet giving us the freedom to make our own choices and find our own way.

Father God. We praise you

You have called us to be your family, a people united through your son, Jesus Christ, and through him you have revealed your love, a love that reaches out to us

Bible Joshua 24:14-18, Ephesians 6:1-4,

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Happy Father's Day

The celebration of Fathers day began in Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora was raised by her father, after her mother died. She wanted her friends to know the special, courageous, selfless and loving man she called her Dad.

Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910. The idea was first mocked and encountered much resistance.

But Sonora persisted and gradually many people joined her to celebrate their fathers. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Like mothers day, Roses are the Father's Day flowers: red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has died. The idea has spread worldwide – though not every country celebrate fathers day in June.

So here we are celebrating Fathers day – thanking God for cool, loving, caring and smart Dads. Some kids don't think their Dads are smart. (By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong). So Dads, are cool and smart, loving and caring. Some pray with their kids, or teach them about God, teach them to ride bikes, lift them up when they fall, and have fun with their them.

But you know, some kids don't have a dad that they ever see, or who they don't see very often. But, they might have a stepdad, a grandpa, another relative or a good friend that almost seems like a dad to them. Any person who performs a fathering role is vital in our lives. The love and teach us, but also help us to know God more as a Father.

There is a prayer that Jesus taught his followers. We have just said this prayer. It begins with the words – Our father - God is our perfect Father. We can trust him completely. You can talk to him like you would with your dad or with a good friend here on earth. We call that praying ie talking to God like you talk to anyone else. He loves you and wants you to love Him.

'A letter to my Dad on Father's Day – Lion and the Lamb'

Dear Dad, I want to take this Father's Day as an opportunity to thank you for all that you are, all that you've done, all that you do, and all that you've taught me. There are so many people in this world who have no dad at all and yet I've not only been blessed with a dad but a dad who models Christ in so many ways.

It has only been recently that I've come to appreciate something that you've taught me by the example of your life. I believe it has taken a lot of God's work in my heart and a lot of growing up for me to appreciate the way you model the precious balance of a Lion and Lamb. All men are called to be both Lion and Lamb, just like Jesus, but I don't know many who actually do it. I don't know how you do it, but you do it beautifully and I am so grateful for it. I do pray that God would bless me with this essential and wonderful fatherly characteristic of Lion and Lamb.

Being both Lion and Lamb is essential to real manhood and real fatherhood. The man who is only a Lion is unfeeling and can be a bully or a tyrant to his family. The man who is only a Lamb is a coward and a pushover who may fail at both providing for and protecting his family. The man who is both Lion and Lamb knows how to love, he knows gentleness and kindness, but he is also strong, tough and unafraid of confrontation for the sake of defending or disciplining his family. The family of the man who is both Lion and Lamb can appreciate his gentleness all the more because of his strength and they can appreciate his discipline all the more because of his kindness. Once again, I cannot thank you enough for modeling this for me.

Thank you for teaching me to love, for teaching me to fight, for teaching me to be gentle, and for teaching me to handle rough situations. I am proud that my dad was always the strongest guy I knew. I am grateful that my dad always pushed me to be better and always made it clear that he loved me no matter what I achieved.

I am indebted to your love and sternness in ways that will be reveal for the rest of my life. I may never fully come to understand in this life all of the ways my character has been built by you. I am, in the most important ways, the result of your good fathering and I am so proud to call myself your son. I love you always dad, Addison

A prayer for all Fathers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o1UibYMh10>

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=YAxIN0egN-I>

Final blessing

God, we ask your blessing on all those here, and in our hearts, whom you have entrusted fatherhood. May your Holy Spirit constantly inspire them with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength, patience and self-giving love. May they receive your grace abundantly, and may they come to experience you through the care and love they give to us. Amen.

