

## **Worship Service: FATHER'S DAY (Sunday or closest day)**

**Welcome:** Welcome! It's so good to be together to celebrate faith and community today. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our worship time. Happy Father's Day (today or coming up)! Who here is the child of a father? Who here has cared and provided for children during his life? We celebrate you today, a day of remembrance for our own family and our role in the family of God.

Our color today is green, to remind us that we're in Ordinary Time in the church calendar. Please join me in prayer as we open.

**Opening Prayer:** Great and loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and especially forgiving us. Enable us to enter your presence joyfully and reverently, and let us depart today with the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Fill us, O God, with the peace which passes understanding. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn: Doxology, p. 1**

**Statement of Faith:** Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23 together:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Hymns:**

#### **For the Beauty of the Earth, p. 2**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, p. 3**  
**Amazing Grace, p. 4**

**First reading:** Proverbs 6: 20-22

My son, keep your father's commandment,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching.

<sup>21</sup> Bind them on your heart always;  
tie them around your neck.

<sup>22</sup> When you walk, they will lead you;  
when you lie down, they will watch over you;  
and when you awake, they will talk with you.

Proverbs 23: 22-26

Listen to your father who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.

<sup>23</sup> Buy truth, and do not sell it;  
buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

<sup>24</sup> The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.

<sup>25</sup> Let your father and mother be glad;  
let her who bore you rejoice.

<sup>26</sup> My son, give me your heart,  
and let your eyes observe my ways.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

**Hymns:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 5**

**Jesus Loves Me, p. 6**

**Second reading:** Matthew 7: 7-11

Jesus said: <sup>7</sup> "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

### Hymns:

**Softy and Tenderly, p. 7**

**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, p. 8**

**Interactive Homily:** Let's talk more about fathers and what they mean to us.

- What are some words you'd use to describe your father? It's true, of course, that some fathers weren't so good, but think about someone you love who acted like a good father in your life, such as an uncle, grandfather, friend, a friend's father, or an older brother. What was that person like? What qualities did he have?
  - strength, integrity, care, love, providing for family, discipline, power
- What sorts of things did your father or father figure teach you?
- What did your father do for work? Around your home? In your community?
- Why do fathers sometimes say "no"?
- How do we typically talk about God—what do we call him?
  - Think of the Lord's prayer: "Our Father..."
- Who is our heavenly parent? God! What is he like?
  - God is close to us, intimate. Jesus calls the Father "Abba," an Aramaic word that means "Daddy." How is the word "daddy" different than "father"?
    - Close, intimate relationship; childlike trust
  - God is good. Remember what our gospel reading said:
    - As Jesus said, "If earthly fathers give their kids good things, how much more will your heavenly Father?"
  - As God's children, what are we supposed to do? (repeat last part of v. 11)
    - Ask for what we need.

... Let's take a moment to silently pray and reflect on blessing of fathers.

**(Silent Prayer)** ... Lord, in your love and mercy, hear our prayers. Now let us say the Lord's prayer together:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

## Hymns:

**This is My Father's World, p. 9**

**It is Well with My Soul, p. 10**

**Standing on the Promises, p. 11**

## Third Reading: Lighthearted Stories about Fathers 😊<sup>1</sup>

On a brutally hot day I walked past a miniature golf course and saw a dad following three small children from hole to hole. "Who's winning?" I shouted. "I am," said one kid. "Me," said another. "No, me," yelled the third. Sweat dripping down his face, the dad gasped, "Their mother is." —*Tom Lappas*

In the frozen-foods department of our local grocery store, I saw a man shopping with his son. As I walked by, he checked something off his list, then whispered conspiratorially to his son, "You know, if we really mess this up, we'll never have to do it again." —*Janet Campbell*

Our family sheltered in the basement after hearing a tornado warning. My husband told everyone to stay put while he got his cell phone from the car, in case the lines went dead. He didn't return for the longest time, so I went looking for him. I was upstairs calling his name, when I heard our phone machine click on. "Hi," a voice said. "This is Dad. I'm locked out of the house." —*Laure Jorges*

After my second year in med school, I moved back home. One night I was up late studying for my clinical exam. Because my father woke me every morning at seven, I put a note on my door: "DO NOT DISTURB. Studying until 3 a.m." Dad, a doctor himself, showed no sympathy. He left a note attached to mine: "The hotel management hopes you're enjoying your stay. We'd like to remind you that checkout was at noon—approximately six years ago." —*Varghese Abraham*

The family was viewing old slides and one flashed on the screen that caught everyone's attention. My father, wearing his favorite golf shirt, was holding me at the tender age of three weeks. The look on his face told all. "There's my prize possession," my father said. Touched, I smiled at him as he continued, "I wonder whatever happened to that golf shirt?" —*Jeanne Graves*

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/funny-dads/#ixzz31FHEmH00>

**Hymns:**

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, p. 12**

**Shall We Gather at the River, p. 13**

**Fourth Reading: Dad's Hands<sup>2</sup> by Melinda Clements**

This is a story about a dad and his daughter. "Have you ever looked at your hands?" a dad asked his daughter. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak, have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

"They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They wiped my tears when my son went off to war.

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn daughter. Decorated with my wedding band, they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

"They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else on me works very well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

"But more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home."

**Hymns:**

**Blest Be the Tie that Binds, p. 14**

**I Need Thee Every Hour, p. 15**

**Closing Blessing: (Strike bell as you say the word "Lord")**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. Amen.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.barefootsworld.net/grandpashands.html>

## Closing Hymn: Doxology, p. 23

---

When my dad died in my ninth year, I ... was raised by my mother, giving rise to the ... question, "What do fathers do?" As far as I could observe, they brought around the car when it rained so everyone else could stay dry.

They always took the family pictures, which is why they were never in them. They carved turkeys on Thanksgiving, kept the car gassed up, weren't afraid to go into the basement, mowed the lawn, and tightened the clothesline to keep it from sagging.

It wasn't until my husband and I had children that I was able to observe firsthand what a father contributed to a child's life. What did he do to deserve his children's respect? He rarely fed them, did anything about their sagging diapers, wiped their noses or fannies, played ball, or bonded with them under the hoods of their cars.

What did he do?

He threw them higher than his head until they were weak from laughter. He cast the deciding vote on the puppy debate. He listened more than he talked. He let them make mistakes. He allowed them to fall from their first two-wheeler without having a heart attack. He read a newspaper while they were trying to parallel park a car for the first time in preparation for their driving test.

If I had to tell someone's son what a father really does that is important, it would be that he shows up for the job in good times and bad times. He's a man who is constantly being observed by his children. They learn from him how to handle adversity, anger, disappointment and success.

He won't laugh at their dreams no matter how impossible they might seem. He will dig out at 1 a.m. when one of his children runs out of gas. He will make unpopular decisions and stand by them. When he is wrong and makes a mistake, he will admit it. He sets the tone for how family members treat one another, members of the opposite sex and people who are different than they are. By example, he can instill a desire to give something back to the community when its needs are greater than theirs.

But mostly, a good father involves himself in his kids' lives. The more responsibility he has for a child, the harder it is to walk out of his life. A father has the potential to be a powerful force in the life of a child. Grab it! Maybe you'll get a greeting card for your efforts. Maybe not. But it's steady work.

– Erma Bombeck, Field Enterprises.