

Come and See

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as in heaven.

Every day the news reminds us of the threads of evil in the world. But the difficult things in life are not the end of the story.

The second line of the Lord's Prayer is our commitment to being part of the solution – a pledge to play a role, however small, in the mission of God's kingdom.

Catch up on the journey so far at oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see.

[Watch online](#) or read the transcript below.

The last two years have been extraordinary and difficult and all of us will have stories to tell from the pandemic which we will probably tell for the rest of our lives.

Some are grieving. Some are living with illness in ourselves or those we love. Others are wrestling with depression or some other disease of the mind and emotions. There is financial hardship.

It will take time to come to terms with all that has happened, to recover and find healing and rebuild. How does saying the Lord's Prayer each day help us as we live through this time?

The first line of the prayer reminds us who we are and helps us to find our place in the universe. We are made in the image of God, in relationship with our Father in heaven; a relationship of love and humility.

The second line of the prayer is just as powerful: Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This second line of the prayer tells the great story of the world. It helps us find our place in a different way. The prayer reminds us whose side we are on and even how the story will end. This line shapes every part of our lives for the coming day especially the difficult parts. But it needs a little unpacking.

God made the world and all that is in the world. But the world is not as God intends it to be or wants it to be. Evil entered creation and twisted and distorted human life. This darkness is there in everyone and in the shroud of death which lies over the whole world.

Every day the news reminds us of the harm we cause each other and the threads of evil which pollute the world. God's great story tells us that God who made the world is also the God who is setting the world right again. The story of the whole Bible therefore is summarised in this second line of the Lord's Prayer.

God called a people to witness to God's love, beginning with Abraham. God called prophets and teachers to tell of his coming kingdom where all the world will be made new and set right. We see signs of God's kingdom now in every act of kindness and mercy and peace.

God sent Jesus, who teaches us the prayer, to bring in this kingdom. Jesus showed us the life of the kingdom in his beautiful character, his wisdom and his love. Jesus gave his life on the cross to save the world and to make forgiveness and change possible.

God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign and foretaste of that new life. And God sent the Holy Spirit to empower the Church to live each day as a sign and foretaste of God's kingdom. Christ will return as Lord of all creation and make all things new and bring the kingdom in all its fulness.

Whenever I pray the second line of the Lord's Prayer, I am reminding myself of this great overarching story, the Christian way of seeing the world. Your kingdom come: the world is not yet as God intends it to be but God is at work through Jesus and through the Church to make it so. One day everything will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

That helps me understand the difficult things in life: the illness and suffering and pain and even death. They are still really difficult. But they are not the end of the story.

I can take all the pain and the darkness I am wrestling with today and acknowledge that this too has a place but not the final word. And when I pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done", even hesitantly, I am declaring once again whose side I am on in this battle. I want to be on the side of justice and peace and kindness and love.

So when I pray this part of the prayer, I'm signing up all over again not just for the joy of a relationship with my Father in heaven but to live the whole of my life in response to God's love: to play my own part, however small, in the mission of the kingdom.

The prayer Your kingdom come is as wide as the cosmos but also deeply personal. This prayer extends and deepens our act of surrender in the words "hallowed be your name".

“Your will be done” is an offering of our own selves to God each day, a prayer to God to guide our lives in the big decisions we make and in the way we choose to live. This is a prayer the whole world needs as we emerge from the pandemic with all of the extra burdens we now carry.

We have come face to face with disease, with mortality, with pain. So we need to remember every day that this is not the way God intends the world to be – and that we are called to be part of the solution in bringing in the kingdom in our generation. As we rebuild together, I hope and pray that all of us can embrace that call with joy.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.