

God Our Heavenly Father

Today we are thinking about God as our Heavenly Father.

For some people, the word “father” brings warm and positive memories. For others, it may bring more difficult or complicated feelings. Our experiences of human fathers can influence how we understand God. But Scripture invites us not to define God by our earthly experiences. Instead, we are invited to allow God to show us what a truly loving Father is like.

God is not distant or uncaring. He has compassion on His children. He loves, protects, provides, comforts, guides and forgives us. Every week we pray the words Jesus taught us: “Our Father, who art in heaven...” These familiar words remind us that God is not simply a distant Creator. Through Jesus, we are invited into a personal relationship with God as our Father.

Knowing God as our Father changes how we live: It gives us belonging: we are not spiritual orphans; we belong to God. It gives us security: even when life is uncertain, God is with us. It gives us somewhere to take our worries and burdens. We can bring our fears, questions and anxieties to Him because He listens. It gives us courage because we do not face difficult situations alone. It gives us hope when we fail, because God's love is greater than our mistakes. And it reminds us of our worth. Our value does not depend on our achievements or what others think of us. We are already loved. Most importantly, knowing God as Father gives us hope for the future. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds the future and our Heavenly Father is always available and we are dearly loved by Him.

Through Jesus, He says to each of us today: **“Come to me.”**

May we respond to our Heavenly Father's gracious invitation.