

Old Orchard Church

January 29, 2012—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.



See print copy for art work.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

*Very early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
Jesus got up, left the house and
went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

— Mark 1:35 —

*Christ Our Brother, Dependent on God:
Celebrating the Privilege and Power of Prayer
And the Baptism of Andrew Smull*

He who was infinite and yet humbled himself
To be born of a woman;
He who took flesh as our Brother;
Who grew as we grow;
Who in solidarity with us
submitted to a baptism of repentance;
Who was sorely tempted by the Evil One
that he might be our sympathy;
This One seeks the face of his Father in prayer—
the heart of his Father in prayer;
the purpose of his Father in prayer;
the power of his Father in prayer;
the love of his Father in prayer—
To demonstrate his utter dependence on God.

O Lord, with joy, we pour out our hearts to you:
Receive our praise, increase our faith,
And teach us to pray.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:32-35
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:32-39

Sermon

“The Sanctity of Human Life:
Foundations in Creation and Redemption”
Text: Psalm 139; Proverbs 24:11-12

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

The Essence of Dependence in Prayer

This secret of prayer became very plain to me once many years ago as I was reading the delightful little account of the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11).

Jesus, His mother and His disciples were invited to the wedding. In all likelihood the family was closely related to, or very friendly toward, the family of Jesus. At least, we notice that the host and hostess had acquainted the mother of Jesus with the embarrassing situation which had arisen when the wine had given out.

Whereupon the mother of Jesus reveals herself as a tried and true woman of prayer.

In the first place, she goes to the right place with the need she has become acquainted with. She goes to Jesus and tells Him everything.

In the next place, notice what she says to Jesus. Just these few, simple words, “**They have no wine.**” Note here what prayer is. To pray is to tell Jesus what we lack. Intercession is to tell Jesus what we see that others lack.

In the third place, let us notice that she did nothing more. When she had told Jesus about the need of her friends, she knew that she did not have to do any more about it. She knew that she did not have to help Him either by suggesting what He should do or anything else. She knew Him and knew that this need had been left in the proper hands. She knew Him. She knew that He Himself knew what He wanted to do.

She knew also that she did not have to influence Him or persuade Him to give these friends a helping hand. No one is so willing to help as He is!

In the fourth place, let us notice that when the mother of Jesus had presented her petition, she had done her part. As far as she was concerned she was through with the matter; she had left it with Him. She was no longer responsible, so to speak, for the embarrassing situation. The responsibility had been placed upon Jesus. It was now up to Him to find a way to help the beloved host and hostess.

She had never before seen Jesus turn water into wine. Therefore she likely did not even think of this way out of the difficulty. It is a question if she, on the whole, even thought about this aspect of the situation. She knew Him well and that He was never at a loss as to what to do. As a rule the way out of difficulty which He chose came as a surprise to her. At least, that was something which did not concern her and in connection with which she did not have to waste any time or effort.

Here is one who truly prays right!

—O. Hallesby in *Prayer* (1994)