

A.W. Tozer: “What I am anxious to see in Christian believers is a beautiful paradox. I want to see in them the joy of finding God while at the same time they are blessedly pursuing Him. I want to see in them the great joy of having God yet always wanting Him.”

O Loving, Mighty, Mysterious God, we come here today for many reasons. First to worship you – to acknowledge your greatness, your power, your majesty. We say with the Psalmist, “Bless the Lord, O my soul. Let all that is within me, bless his holy name.” O Lord, we are in awe, and we are humbled, and we come to be reminded that you know each one of us, that you love each one of us, and that you call each one of us your child, your beloved child. We come also today to find refuge in you. To get away from the chaos of the world around us, and for a short time, just be still, surrounded by the signs and symbols of this holy place. So that we are grounded once again in that which is good and right and just and loving. We come to be with like-minded brothers and sisters, in fellowship with one another. Oh, we may not agree on everything, but we do agree that we need you and we need one another, and that together you have called us to be the Body of Christ in this world, bringing about love, reconciliation, hope, healing, and peace. And we do come, Lord, to pursue you. It is a beautiful paradox. For through Christ, we know some of your thoughts, but not all your thoughts. We know some of your ways, but not all your ways. We live in that in between time of “Behold, the kingdom of God is here,” and yet the kingdom of God is not fully realized. Lord, we pray “your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven,” but make us realize we are the ones who bring your kingdom to earth – to our homes, our workplaces, our community. We bring it by our words and actions, by our sacrifice and willingness to serve, by our love, our mercy, our desire to live a Christ-like life. That is why we come. And so we ask your blessing upon us that what is done and said and experienced in this place will fill us and go with us to the mission field of our lives.

And Lord we also come to pray for others. As the Bible tells us, “Pray in the Spirit with all kinds of prayers and requests. Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” And so we come to offer our prayers of intercession. You have heard those on our prayer list, but there are others, so hear us now as people in this congregation lift aloud the names of those for whom we ask your blessing.

O Lord, in our desire to bring your kingdom to earth, we come both as individuals and a church, and so hear us now as we pray our John Wesley prayer...