

# On Earth as in Heaven

10/20/2018 Andy Figueroa

Jesus said, *“Pray then like this: ‘Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’”* Matthew 6:9-10 (ESV)

THIS is the opening lesson of our annual financial stewardship campaign for 2019. Our objective is to help each of us think more deliberately about giving money as our offering and sacrifice to God.

Giving in church is not just about the money.

Our weekly giving is at its core the biblical archetype for worship and our participation in the offertory should be



as well planned as the rest of our liturgy. For the next few weeks, I will be writing about Christian giving anchored to the theme of how Jesus taught us to pray. During those weeks there won't be anything for you to do but to read, think, and maybe discuss or ask questions.

Finally, on November 18, we'll provide cards and invite each household to provide an estimate (not a pledge) of their intentional giving of tithes and offerings for 2019. Doing this helps parishioners deliberately plan their future giving and helps prevent vestry budget anxiety. Some of you are already chomping at the bit thinking, “Just give me a card so I can fill it out. I'm ready now.” We know there are dozens of households eager to be first in line, eager to let Holy Trinity know that we will have their financial support. For all of you, thank you. May God bless you with patience and endurance to let this string of lessons unfold.

It can be a little shocking to see or hear the Lord's Prayer in words other than we are accustomed to praying. To me, “thy will be done” sounds infinitely better. On the other hand, seeing it in that other English has helped me contemplate Jesus' words. What does it mean, “thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?” In heaven, God's will is followed perfectly, for love's sake. Where does one find out about God's will? God's will is found in his Word.

I will leave you with this thought: Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* John 14:15 (ESV)

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