



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 29 JUNE 2020 – 5 JULY 2020

Dear church family,

As I mentioned before, the Heidelberg Catechism is structured around our **guilt**, the **grace** of God, and our response in **gratitude**. This week, we continue in the **grace** section of the catechism.

With millions of Christians around the world and down through the centuries, we confess:
“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.”

This week, I invite you think about the privilege of having God as our Father. The God who made the world, who is absolutely sovereign over all things, He has adopted us as His children. All who trust Jesus as Lord and Saviour are welcomed into God’s family as children. This is the amazing privilege for all who believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose again. We not only have a Maker of all things, not only a Ruler in heaven, but a Father. Our Father is God. What confidence, what hope does this fill our hearts?

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0425 270 854 / tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com) if you’d like to pray with me or for any other needs.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM¹

Lord’s Day 9

Q26) **What do you believe when you say,**

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth”?

- A) That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them,
who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence,
is my God and Father because of Christ His Son.
I trust Him so much that
I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul,
and He will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this sad world.
He is able to do this because He is almighty God;
He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.

¹ The text of the Catechism is usually from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>, but time to time, for the sake of clarity, I have also adopted the translation used in *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung.

ISAIAH 44:24

This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:

I am the LORD, the Maker of all things,
who stretches out the heavens,
who spreads out the earth by myself.

Our God is not only a saviour (redeemer), but a creator. In fact, He is the Maker of all things. Before He made the world, there was nothing. No atoms, or subatomic particles. No energy or electromagnetic waves. Not even an empty space or endlessly boring time. There was absolutely nothing but the Triune God Himself, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And this God made everything. So, next time you look out the window and see clouds floating by, or flowers blossoming, or when you watch a scientific documentary on TV or see the lovely faces of your children or grandchildren, why not turn your minds to God who made all these, and praise Him in your hearts?

MATTHEW 10:29

[Jesus said:] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

Jesus knew us. He knew we worry about what would happen to us, not only tomorrow, but even today. Health problems, financial strain, relational heartbreaks are all around us, threatening to drown us in worries. Although there are so much beauty in this world, they all eventually decay and come to an end. It is a sad world we live in. Yet, Jesus reminds us that God cares for us. And He cares not simply as a ruler, but as a Father to us. So turn to our Father in heaven, trusting His good and sovereign care for His children.

GALATIANS 4:4–7

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. **6** Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba , Father.” **7** So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

*It is an absolute pinnacle of privilege to call God our Father. All who believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose again to life belong to Jesus. And all who belong to Jesus by that faith receive not only forgiveness of sins and eternal life but God as our Father. This is because Jesus is God the Son, and when we receive Him by faith, we also receive God the Father (and God the Holy Spirit). All Christians, therefore, have one Father in Christ. This privilege does not come to us without Christ or outside Christ. Those who do not believe Jesus, those who don't belong to Jesus have no right to call God as their Father. It is only **in Christ**, that we can be God's children and call Him Father. So Jesus taught us to pray, **our Father**. Not only because we pray together with other Christians, but more fundamentally, we pray as “younger” siblings of Christ, and we approach God as our Father only **in Christ**. Why not talk to our Father now, thanking Him for this privilege?*