

01.26.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Holy Be Your Name”

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 6:9](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Center stage.

The spotlight.

What comes to your heart and mind when you read these words?

This week we are exploring together the second phrase of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. In this phrase, Jesus says we are to pray: “Hallowed be your name” (NIV) or “May your name be kept holy.” (NLT)

What does it mean to hallow something? To hallow, something means to regard it as holy, set apart, revered, sacred. We talk about the hallowed halls of a university or college, political building, or stadium. We talk about the hallowed ground. We hallow things and places, we set them apart because of what happened/happens there or because of what the thing or place represents.

But, Pastor Doug reminded us this past Sunday in his sermon, to hallow something also means “...to make central.”

When I heard Pastor Doug use this phrase “to make central” I immediately thought of a stage in an auditorium or performance hall. I pictured center stage, the focal point of everyone in the room when the lights go out. I pictured the place where whoever is acting, singing, or performing is set apart from everyone else, standing in the spotlight, and the focus of everyone’s attention in the room.

We hallow someone or something by putting it, and not ourselves, in the spotlight.

We hallow someone or something by placing it, and not ourselves, on center stage.

We hallow someone or something by making it central to our lives.

What is central in your life today? Who or what are you making central? What is the focus of your time, attention, and resources? Who or what for you is in the spotlight on center stage?

When we pray, Jesus instructs us to make our Abba Father central each time we pray.

When we pray to our Abba Father, Jesus says, begin by putting your Abba Father in the spotlight.

When we pray to our Abba Father, Jesus says, begin by putting your Abba Father on center stage.

Jesus says to pray...Hallowed by your name. Holy be your name Abba Father, for "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being." ([Revelation 4:11](#))

There are countless things that we can put first in our hearts and lives and prayers. Countless things that we could place in the spotlight on center stage. Amid all these options, Jesus says, begin with your Abba Father. Start with Abba Father. Start by hallowing God's name. Set Abba Father apart. Start with Abba Father in the spotlight and on center stage.

Prayer:

Jesus, time and time again, you spent time in prayer time with your Father in Heaven. Jesus, as we turn our attention to prayer in the days and weeks to come, Lord, teach us how to pray. Amen.

-A prayer based on Matthew 6 and Luke 11

Action Item for the Day/Week:

During this worship series on prayer, we are going to be experimenting with different prayer practices each week:

Practice #3: Prayers of Adoration

This week, as you continue spending 3-5 minutes in prayer, three times a day (morning, noon, night), each time you pray, identify as many of the qualities, characteristics, names, and attributes of God that you can. Try and identify one or more for each letter of the alphabet.

You can also pray this kingdom prayer which is our missional practice for the month of January:

*Lord, we pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit that you would...
REVEAL Christ to us,
SHAPE us in the character of Christ,
and EQUIP us for the mission of Christ. Amen*

If you would like a background photo of this prayer for your phone, please contact the church office and we will email it to you.

Songs for today:

[Holy Holy Holy](#)

[Holy Holy Holy \(We Bow Before Thee\)](#)

[What a Beautiful Name It Is](#)

[Here I am to Worship](#)

[Worthy](#)