

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

June 2021

## OUR “ABBA FATHER”

**F**ather – there are few words that can call to mind such strong emotions and feelings from every direction — joy, love, gratefulness, sorrow, anger, laughter, regret, longing, fear, security, homesickness.

Father’s Day is traditionally a special time of family; a day set aside to honor and refresh childhood memories with our Dads. It is a happy time. We get to push the “pause button” on the mundane and take time to celebrate the special bond and joy we share with our Dads. Father’s Day provides children an opportunity to express love, honor, and respect for their fathers. The sentiment goes a long way in strengthening father-child relationships and the emotional and spiritual development of the children God has entrusted to our care. Father’s Day celebrates the vital role that fathers and father-like figures make in the lives of children. It is the perfect time for you and me to bless, honor, remember, and

appreciate the men God chose to be our earthly fathers – and that’s exactly what we do on Father’s Day.

The “flip side” to all this celebrating, of course, is that we live in an imperfect, broken world; thus, for many - Father’s Day can be a glaring reminder of loneliness, disappointment, painful memories, or no memories at all. For some, the day brings waves of grief because a beloved father or child is no longer alive to celebrate the day. For another, it’s a stark reminder of the neglect, abandonment, or abuse experienced at the hand of an earthly father. It can also be painful for the person who never even knew their Dad, for the man who longs to be a father, or for someone who shared no more than a distant, biological relationship with their father.

(Continued on Page 2)



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**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.  
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims  
Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
(Sunday Messages available on website:  
Www.avaolongracechurch.com)  
Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study is  
Currently Suspended**

**“And to make all men see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world  
hath been hid in God, who created  
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**

**- Ephesians 3:9**

## OUR “ABBA FATHER” . . . (Continued from Page 1)

In his Father’s Day devotional titled, “Abba, Father,” from “Our Daily Bread,” Tim Gustafson, a father of 8, writes: “But for many, “Dad” is an incomplete concept. Where are we to turn if our fathers are gone, or they fail us, or even if they wound us?” That’s a question with no easy answer humanly speaking - especially if you have been hurt by a father or another man you trusted.

Regardless of the type of father you grew up with – or without – your view of God is influenced a great deal by the relationship you had with your father – good, bad, absent, or indifferent. That’s just how it is sometimes. Yet, if Father’s Day evokes negative feelings and memories for you, most people do not know why and are unaware of how you feel. People with like feelings can certainly understand why you’d rather just skip the day altogether. What’s the point in celebrating painful memories or no memories at all?

Thankfully, praise God, with a willing heart, we can meet Father’s Day with peace and joy regardless of the positive or negative feelings we might carry! By switching our focus from our earthly father to our heavenly Father, God “. . . will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7); not just Father’s Day but every day. By setting “. . . your minds on things above, not on earthly things . . .” (Colossians 3:2) feelings deep inside can be replaced with joy and peace with God’s help. Jesus places a new song in your heart as you praise your heavenly Father for who He is.

Can you think of a better way to spend Father’s Day then to realize that the One who knew you before you were conceived (*see Jeremiah 1:4*) and knit you together in your mother's womb (*see Psalm 139:13*) is your Heavenly Father through the redemptive work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ?

As believers, access to our heavenly Father is through Jesus Christ alone. His sacrifice was the one and only price that could be paid for our redemption and

restoration into the family of His wonderful Father with so many promises too numerous to mention.

Here are just a few:

### ***Nothing Will Ever Separate You From Christ and the Father’s Love - Romans 8:38-39***

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### ***God the Father is our “Abba-Father” – Galatians 4:4-7***

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

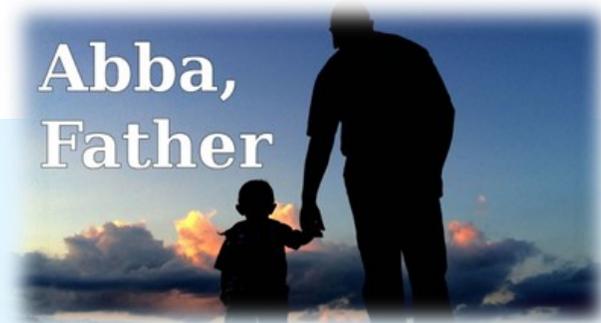
We really don’t need a designated “Father’s Day” on the calendar for our hearts to know that our “Abba Father’s” love for us is eternal. Contrary to our feelings – good or bad, God loves you and me as much as He loves His Son!

With humble hearts and pure adoration and thanksgiving, we bow before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and proclaim, “Happy Father’s Day, Abba Father!”

May you have a blessed Father’s Day in Him,

Pastor Phil

# Abba, Father



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” Ephesians 1:3

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” Galatians 4:6

“And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:18

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. Proverbs 68:5-6

## D DAY REFLECTIONS –JUNE 6TH

*Come and stand in memory  
Of men who fought and died  
They gave their lives in Normandy  
Remember them with pride.*

*When my life is over  
And I reach the other side  
I'll meet my friends from Normandy  
And shake their hands with pride.*



## FLAG DAY REFLECTIONS—JUNE 14TH



*"It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the soldier, not the poet,  
Who has given us freedom of speech.  
It is the soldier, not the organizer,  
Who gave us the freedom  
to demonstrate  
It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
And whose coffin is  
draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protester  
to burn the flag."*

- Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, USMC

**DAD UNIVERSITY** A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

**ZOWIE! IT'S A DIPLOMA FROM THE DAD COLLEGE OF BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE! DOES THIS MEAN I'VE GRADUATED?**

**WELL, SON YOU CAN NEVER REALLY GRADUATE FROM THIS SCHOOL. RIGHT, POP?**

**RIGHT, AND YOU MIGHT EVEN TEACH US A THING OR TWO!**

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He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. — PSALM 78:5-6 NIV

# Father's Day . . . June 20th

## Why God Made Fathers

By Katherine Nelson Davis



God knew the children  
all would need  
Someone secure and strong  
To shelter and protect them  
And to teach them right from wrong.  
A person to take pride in  
Throughout their growing years  
Someone to laugh at childhood jokes  
And to comfort childhood tears.  
That's why God made fathers.

God knew all children needed  
Someone to be their guide  
to count on and look up to  
And in whom the could confide  
He knew as they grew up  
They'd need the reassurance of  
Someone with faith and trust in them  
Who would always give them love.  
That's why God made fathers.

## Only A Father Will Do

Only a father could understand  
The special things his children have planned  
Only a father can share it seems  
The vision and challenge of the loftiest dreams  
When encouragement's needed or questions arise  
And you need to find someone  
who is strong and wise  
Someone who sees you with love in their eyes,  
Only a father will do. ~ Unknown

“. . . choose you this day  
whom ye will serve; whether  
the gods which your fathers  
served that were on the other  
side of the flood, or the gods  
of the Amorites, in whose land  
ye dwell: but as for me and  
my house, we will serve the  
LORD.” ~ *Joshua 24:15 KJV*

“One night a father overheard his son pray: Dear Lord,  
make me the kind of man my Daddy is. Later that night,  
the Father prayed, dear God, make me the kind of man  
my son wants me to be.” ~ *Unknown*

“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of  
the womb is his reward.” ~ *Psalm 127: 3-5 KJV*

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons  
and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.  
~ *2 Corinthians 6:18 KJV*

“God's love gives in such a way that it flows from a  
Father's heart, the well-spring of all good.  
The heart of the giver makes the gift dear  
and precious; as among ourselves  
we say of even a trifling gift,  
"It comes from a hand we love,"  
and look not so much at the gift as at the heart.”

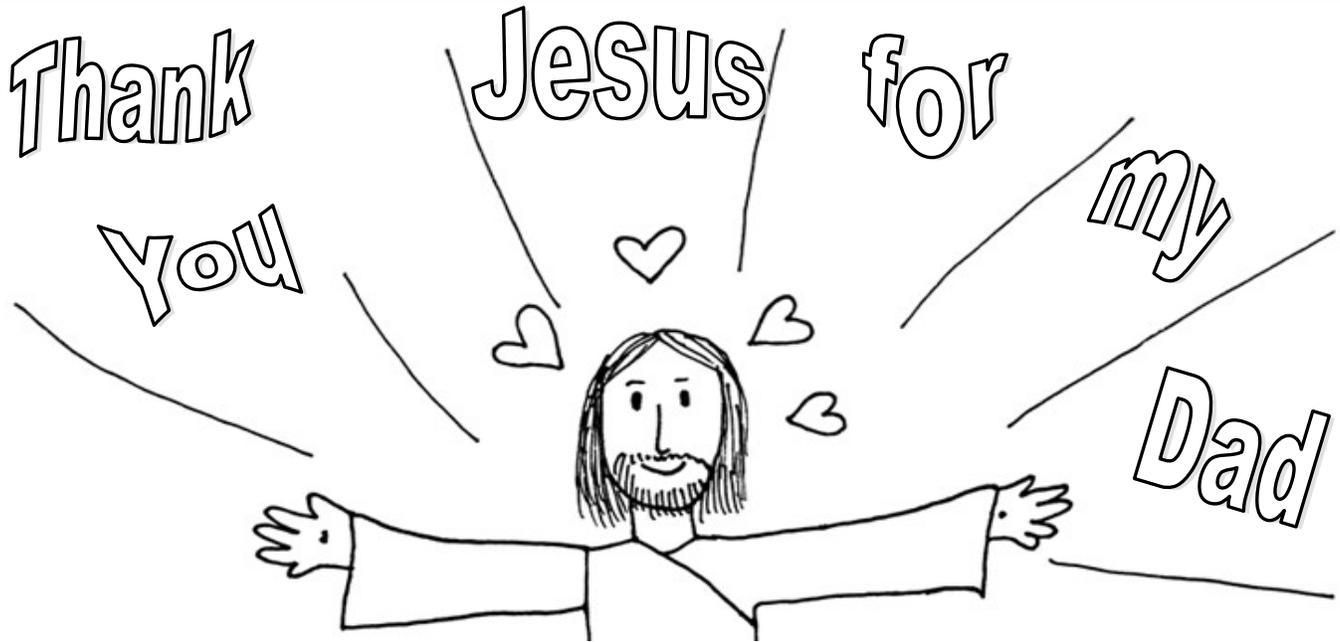
~ Martin Luther

"I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When  
he does wrong, I'll discipline him in the usual ways, the  
pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never  
remove my gracious love from him." ~ *2 Samuel 7:14-15*

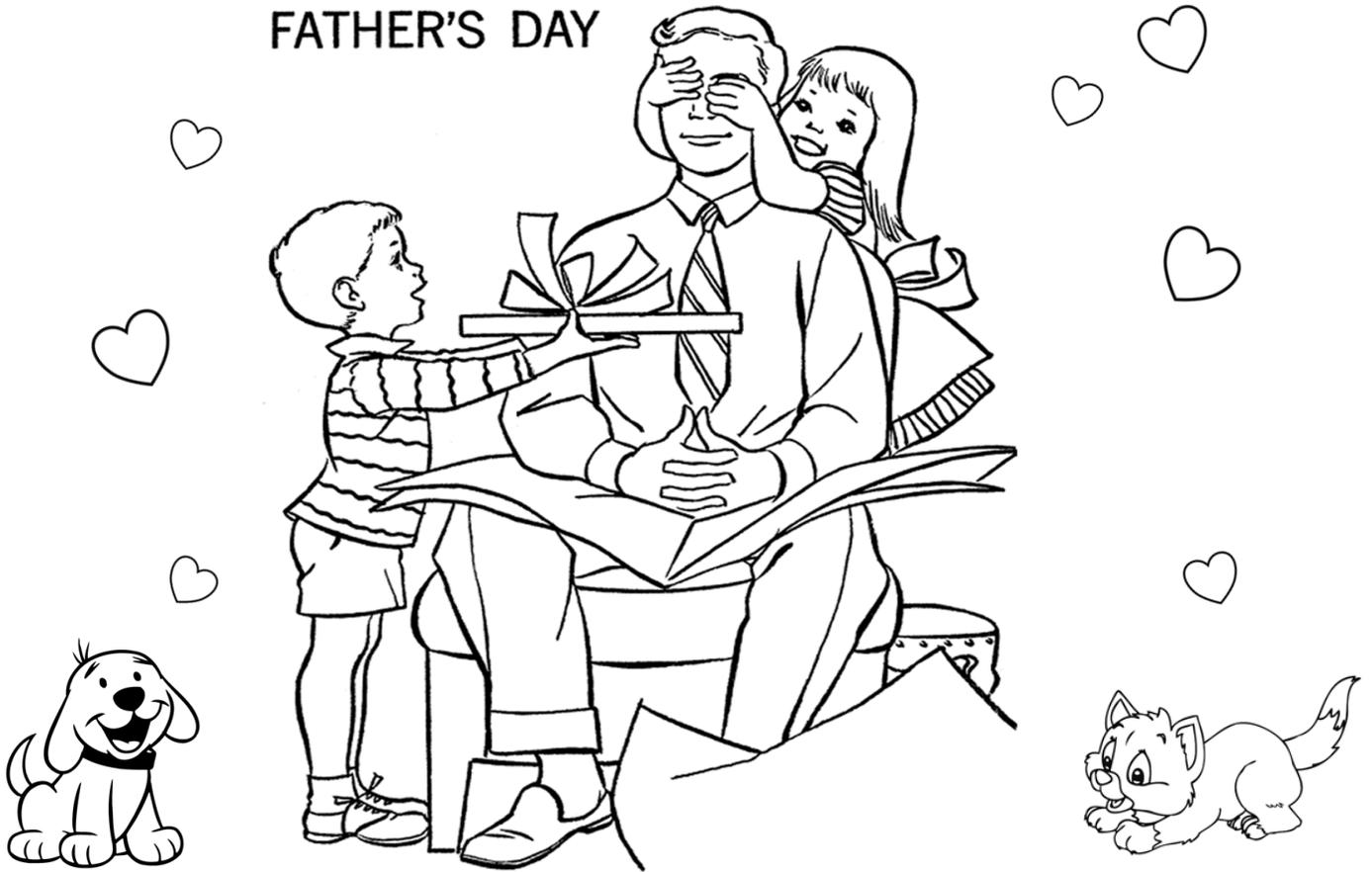
Jesus: "I and my Father are one."  
~ *John 10:30 KJV*



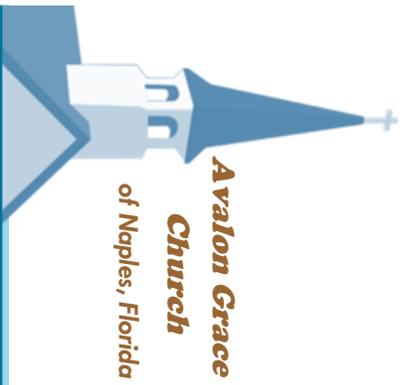
# Coloring for Jesus



FATHER'S DAY



Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. Psalm 103:13 KJV



# June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5



- 6th David Marshall
- 10th John O'Neill
- 16th Michelle Sims
- 18th June D'Amico
- 19th Mary Johnson
- 30th Janet McClellan

**COMING IN JULY**

4th 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast  
&  
Independence Day!



6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 Sunday Breakfast						
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
	<b>FLAG DAY</b>					



20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
	<b>Happy Father's Day!</b>					
	<b>SUMMER BEGINS</b>					



27	28	29	30
10:30 AM Sunday Worship			
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School			