

Prayer of Dedication

The Bible tells us that God does not dwell in houses made by human hands as Luke writes in Acts chapters 7 and 17. (7:48 & 17:24-25) God dwells among his people. My beloved we are God's dwelling place and as Paul taught, we as believers are the church, "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:22)

Yet, it was when the believers were gathered in the upper room of a house that Acts 2 says, "suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ... ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:2 & 4) The believers were gathered and God showed up in a mighty way.

This morning is our first gathering to worship here in our new building, we are going to pray a prayer of dedication and blessing over this church building and this location where we meet together. While I am praying, I hope you will be engaged to think of how God has blessed us as a church, as families and as individuals. We need to reach out of our comfort zones and bless others with the gospel of Christ and bring them to this place of worship, our church.

Let us come before the only God, the Creator of everything in the worship of prayer.

Father, we honor you here in this place. You rule the nations; your Son Jesus sits at your right hand until he has put every enemy under his feet, the last enemy being death. You are God, who made the universe and the world and everything in it. You are Lord of heaven and earth and do not live in temples made by man, nor are you served by human hands, as though you need anything, since you yourself give to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Father, we come to you this morning, not to give you something you need, for you need nothing. But in view of your great mercy, we come to offer ourselves to you this morning as living sacrifices as individuals, families, and as your church, and we do it here in this building we have gathered in to worship you. Father may it be used to further your kingdom.

May this be a place where sinners find their Savior and the prodigal is welcomed by you for you are a generous and compassionate Father. May this be a place your saints, young and old, are encouraged in the gospel, equipped for service, sanctified in your truth, and joyously assured of the eternal redemption that our Lord and Savior, Jesus has earned for us. May this be a place of peace and safety, where the spiritually wounded receive comfort for their souls, the weary are revived, the despairing are filled with hope, the depressed filled with joy, and the sick are healed. May those who thirst for truth, eternal truth, find satisfaction and the spiritually hungry be filled with your Spirit.

May this be a place where your Word is honored and trembled at - where your people are perfecting holiness in their fear and awe of you. May friendships be established and deepened and many sins covered by love. As you strengthen us may we strengthen each other.

As in the upper room may this place be where you, Father, seek and find worshipers who worship in spirit and truth. May this be a place where Jesus, our Head receives honor and praise – his cross boasted in, the power of his resurrection lived, and his second coming hoped for. May the Spirit of God, the heavenly Dove, descend as he did upon Christ at his baptism and dwell in this place and in our hearts.

Father, I pray for serious disciples to be made here – blood-bought, Spirit-filled, Word-saturated, sold-out, cross-bearing disciples who make an impact on

the nations of the world. Father we seek your blessings that we might bless others in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Father, I pray that as we gather week after week, we would be filled up with your Spirit, equipped in all kinds of ways for all kinds of service and sent out to touch the world around us – a world so desperately in need of the good news and its author Jesus!

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior and for your glory Father. Amen and amen!