## **Corporate Prayer**

Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-35





### **Corporate Prayer**







#### Our context









# Individualism

# Individual prayer





"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 18:19-20

# Two types of corporate prayer

Liturgical prayer

Prayer that is lead by a person





#### Acts 2:42-47

 Lit: "the prayers". The first disciples probably followed the Jewish liturgical prayers

 Acts 2: 1 - When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.



#### Acts 2:42-47

• Acts 3:1 "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon."

Isaac's MinchaPrayer – Psalm 145



#### Acts 2:42-47

Prayer as part of the life of the Christian community

## Prayer for today

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

## Why corporate liturgical prayer?

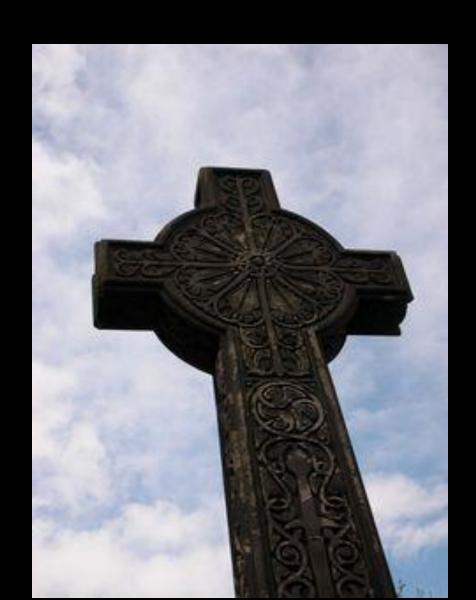
#### Unity of purpose



I am because we are

# Why corporate liturgical prayer?

Worship



### Acts 4:24-29 —Context of prayer

 Healing of the man at the beautiful gate (3:1-10)

• Peter speaks to the people (3:11-26)

 Threats and arrest of Peter and John (4:1-7)



## Acts 4:24-29 —Context of prayer

 Peter speaks to the elders and the teachers of the law (4:8-12)

 Meeting of the elders and the teachers of the law and subsequent threats (4:13-22)



## Content of prayer

Who God is (4:24) – He is sovereign

What he did in creation (4:24)

What he did in revelation (4:25)

## Content of prayer

 Opposition to God in the OT (4:25b-26)

 Opposition to God in the life of Jesus (4:27)

God is in control (4:28; cf. vs. 24.)

## Content of prayer

 Request: God take note of the threats; that the disciples are able to speak (4:29)

 Request: God do signs and wonders through the name of Jesus (4:30).

## So, why corporate prayer?

#### **Encouragement**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.



I Thessalonians 5<sup>11</sup>

#### So?

- Let us, as a church community, be open to old and new forms of corporate prayer
- Let be unified by this prayer
- Let us worship together not worshipping separately but just happen to be in the same room!
- Let us encourage one another by praying with and for one another