

1.2 Corinthians 6:18: *"And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."*

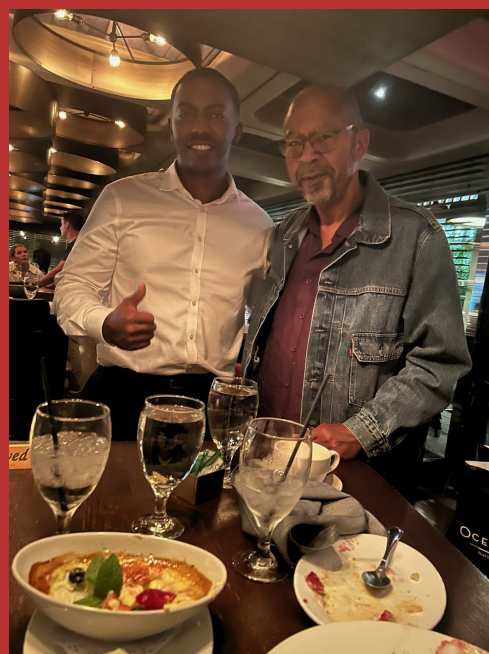


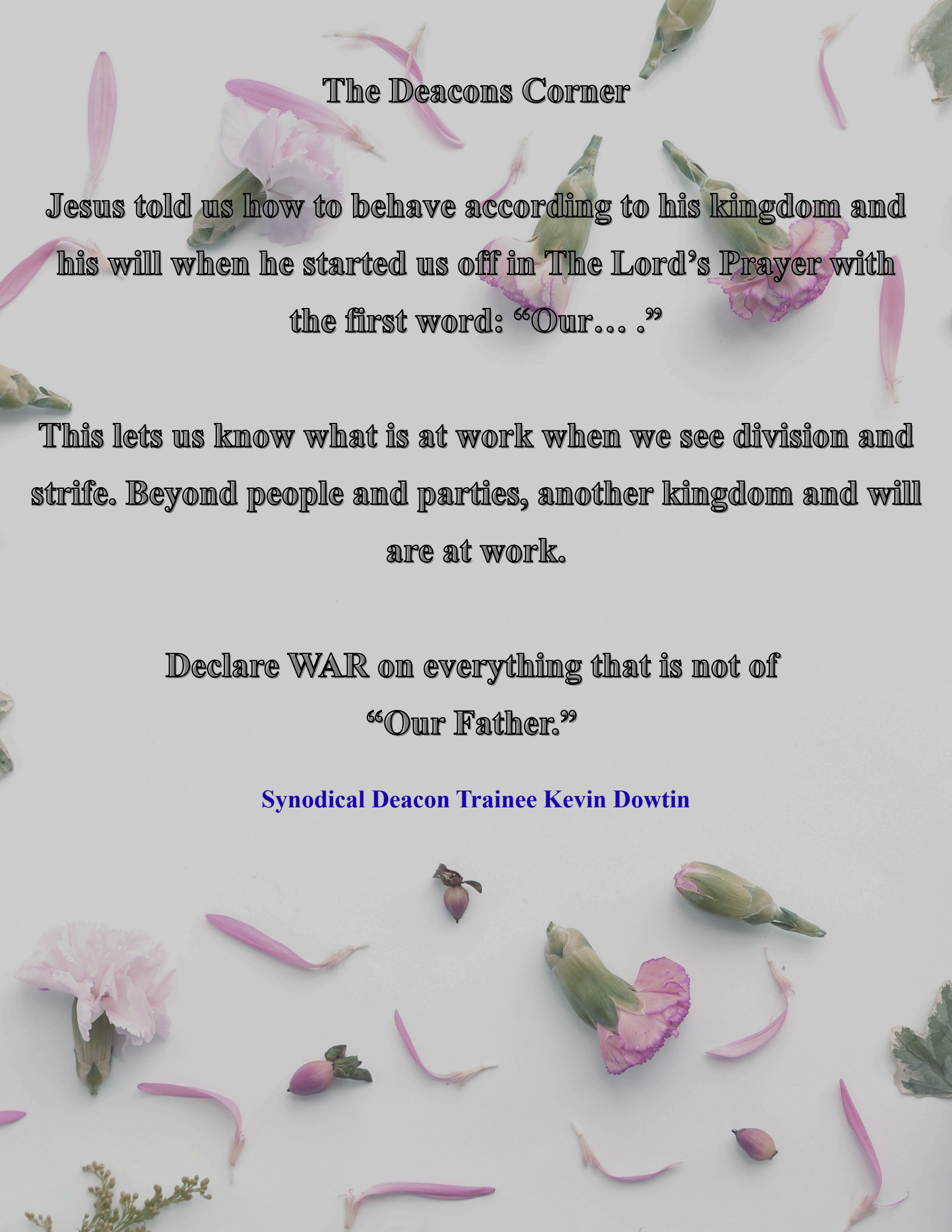
The Shepherd's Staff

Heavenly Father,

Today, we ask You to bless our earthly fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom, and mercy that You exemplify in Your relationship with us, Your children. We honor our fathers for putting our needs above their own convenience and comfort; for teaching us to show courage and determination in the face of adversity; for challenging us to move beyond self-limiting boundaries; for modeling the qualities that would turn us into responsible, principled, caring adults. Give new and future fathers the guidance they need to raise happy and holy children, grounded in a love for God and other people - and remind these fathers that treating their wives with dignity, compassion, and respect is one of the greatest gifts they can give their children.





The background of the entire page is a light cream color, decorated with scattered pink carnations and individual petals. Some flowers are fully open, while others are buds or just petals. The text is centered and overlaid on this floral pattern.

The Deacons Corner

Jesus told us how to behave according to his kingdom and his will when he started us off in The Lord's Prayer with the first word: "Our... ."

This lets us know what is at work when we see division and strife. Beyond people and parties, another kingdom and will are at work.

Declare WAR on everything that is not of
"Our Father."

Synodical Deacon Trainee Kevin Downtin

Father's Day Inspiration

In the small town of Nazareth, a carpenter named Eliakim lived, known for his unwavering faith and commitment to his family. A devoted husband and father, Eliakim worked diligently to provide for his wife, Miriam, and their two sons, Nathan and Simon. He instilled in them the importance of honesty, hard work, and, above all, a deep reverence for God.

One day, as he worked on a beautiful piece of furniture, Eliakim gathered his sons around him. "Boys," he said, "do you remember the story of Abraham? He was asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a test of faith." The boys listened intently, their eyes wide with curiosity. Eliakim continued, "Abraham demonstrated his trust in God by obeying, even when it was difficult. But God provided a ram as a sacrifice at the last moment because of Abraham's faith."

The boys marveled at the story, and Eliakim used this moment to teach them the significance of faith and obedience to God's will. In the weeks that followed, a famine struck the land, and food grew scarce. Many families faced hardships, but Eliakim remained hopeful. He gathered his family each evening to pray for provision, reminding them of God's faithfulness. One night, after a long day of searching for work, Eliakim returned home feeling despondent. Seeing the worry in his sons' eyes, he knelt down beside them.

"Though times are tough, we must remember to trust in God's plan. Just like He provided for Abraham, He will provide for us." The very next morning, Eliakim and Nathan set out to seek work again, praying for guidance. As they walked through the market, they stumbled upon a merchant who was in need of skilled carpenters.

"I've heard of your talents, Eliakim," the merchant said. "I have an urgent project, and I would be grateful for your help." Eliakim's heart soared. He accepted the offer, and soon the work began to pour in. He hired others in the town who were struggling alongside him, ensuring that they all had food and support during the famine.

The village began to thrive again, not just because of Eliakim's work, but because he had inspired a spirit of generosity and community among the people. As the boys grew, they learned the importance of faith through their father's example. Eliakim's steadfast reliance on God, even in difficult times, taught them that true wealth lies not just in material things but in faith, kindness, and connection with one another. Years later, as they told their own children about their father and the lessons he imparted, Nathan and Simon smiled. "Our father showed us what it means to truly trust in God," Simon would often say. "Just like Abraham, he worked diligently and always believed that God would provide." Eliakim had not only built a legacy of faith for his family but also fostered a sense of community and love. His story became a testament to the power of faith, reminding all who heard it that God watches over those who trust in Him and provides for His children in miraculous ways.



Strength of a Mountain

**God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad**

- Author Unknown