

Prayer: Thrones

Year B, Pentecost 21

By Beth Barnett

This is prayer and Bible engagement for Hebrews 4:12-16.
This resource can be used in Early Word or Bible Reading times.

You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slide show of quiz questions (optional)• Several different kinds of distinctive chairs – including a small child’s chair, and a large traditional ‘throne’ chair.• Music – your own favourite song about grace played by your musicians or recorded music eg: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbEGepy5jdY
Time required:	5-10 minutes

Introduction

We’ve read in the book of Hebrews today about God’s throne. I’m wondering just how well we know our thrones?

So here we have a quick throne quiz.

How well do you know your thrones?

1. How many thrones are there at the castle Cair Paravel in Narnia?
(answer: there are four thrones)
2. Which of these thrones does not appear in the Bible?
 - Stone throne
 - Rainbow throne
 - Fiery throne
 - Ivory throne(answer: a stone throne does not appear in the Bible.)

3. In the Bible which animals are associated with thrones?

- Monkeys
- Snakes
- Lions
- Dragons

(answer: lions)

4. What is most commonly said to be the foundation that God's throne is built on in the Bible.

- Righteousness and Justice
- Stone and Gold
- Wisdom

(answer: righteousness and justice)

5. In the book of Hebrews the God's throne is called

- The Judgement Throne
- The throne of Grace
- The eternal throne

(answer: throne of Grace)

Continue

Some interesting facts about thrones there. Did some of the answer's surprise you?

There's a Rainbow throne in the Bible?

The Danish throne made of narwhal tusk?

And how about that last question – God's throne is not a throne of judgement, but a throne of grace.

Let's check out Hebrews chapter 4

"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

We can see how it was described not as a throne of judgement where the King sits and decides which people are guilty or sends people to prison.

God's throne in Hebrews is a throne of grace.

A throne of forgiveness.

A fresh start sofa

A second chance chair

The Book of Hebrews offers encouragement to us as we come to pray, inviting us to be bold not afraid because God's throne isn't to bring judgment, but to bring grace. This was really good news for the Jewish people who had lost everything solid and official – their temple, the castle, the priests and prophets, their king, the throne, their laws, their judges.

Hebrews reminds God's people that the only authority, the only King, the only power that matters is God's – and unlike the emperors and priests and judges they knew - God's throne is a throne of Grace.

A throne that doesn't judge but brings forgiveness and restoration.



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A throne of judgement looks at something wrong and says 'That's terrible – out you go'

A throne of grace looks at something wrong and says 'Come closer - Let's make this right again'

God invites us – even in difficult times to bring our prayers boldly – because the throne of Grace offers 'come closer – let's make this right again'

In our prayers today, you are invited to bring your prayers to the throne of grace. Hebrews doesn't tell us anything about what this throne might look like or what it was made of – narwhal tusks or rainbows or ivory or gold. It doesn't matter.

I'm going to let you decide which chair here is the throne of grace for you.

Around our gathering space are several chairs.

Take some time to choose a chair.

What does God's grace look and feel like to you.

Think about how you'll approach the chair.

You can sit on it. You can stand or kneel or lie down in front of it.

You can sit beside it.

You might stay in your own seat but imagine yourself approaching the throne of grace – that's ok too.

What is on your mind that you need God's grace for?

Maybe it is something for you, or maybe there is someone else or some situation that you want to seek God's grace for. As you come close to the chair you've chosen as the throne of grace, mindful of the need you bring, become aware of God's presence.

Bring your prayer boldly.

Music will play for a few minutes as we take time for this.



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