

DAILY WAITING

We meet your word as praise opens our heart space.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks that our lives can bring others to praise you.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer our praise through more than just words.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you our over occupied lives, yearning still for the freedom of serving you alone.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift everything the breath to praise you.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift our praise with true wholeness.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with stillness in the midst of our journeys.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES
NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

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GATHERING

As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 1: PRAISE

LISTENING

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

(Psalm 100)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

I will enter His courts with praise! I wonder what images that conjures up for you? Processions of brightly arrayed people, musicians loudly accompanying the singing, exuberant voices raised, bodies swaying to the beat of the music, ecstatic cries of hallelujahs resounding off the buildings so that even their stones seem to sing? How do you offer praise to an almighty and gracious God? Do you find that you need words at all or do you even need music? Do you need the company of others? Do you find with the Coronavirus restrictions praise in worship when you are actually with others is something you miss?

I wonder if deep praise is that which happens once you have entered into the close presence of God, when you are so in awe of his majesty, his glory, his sheer beauty and power that you simply fall silent and bring all of who you are.

Even in this space of praise when alone in our homes, can we become more utterly aware of all God has done for us and often in spite of us? Our loud hallelujahs melt away in our whispers of praise to the one from whom all good things come.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of God's Praise

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.
- 6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
- 8 For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
- 9 My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

Psalm 63.1-9

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

Oh welcoming God,
you invite us to journey with you through your beautiful world
and delight in your dwelling place.
So we will enter and exalt,
shout and sing,
placing our hope in you,
our good and forever God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We meet you when we dare to stop and listen.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our simple thanks for your presence in the here and now.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer you our ingratitude for the unopened gifts you set before us.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you our hearts, that you might blossom them into thankfulness.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with a spirit of true thankfulness.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with strength to grasp moments for change.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with generosity.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES

DAILY WAITING

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I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES
THE KINGDOM COME
NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

DAY 2: THANKS

LISTENING

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

(Mark 14.17, 22-26)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
The Lord is near.

As Jesus took hold of bread from crushed wheat that prefigures his soon to be ground body, he gives thanks. He enters into a covenant of grace that integrates himself into our very real lives - joys, pains and sorrow. It is his gift.

Amidst the storms of life when all threatens to come crashing down around us; when calamities strike as if from nowhere and relationships, long strained, snap amongst violent words never meant to be spoken out loud. How can we 'thank' when the last thing we want to do is be ever thankful?

When Jesus takes bread, and as it were, becomes bread, he shows us a way of embodying thanks - not just because he feels grateful, but because thanks are about offering back something that is true, about God, about us, about life. There is something about sharing our lives with others that brings no obvious benefit to us. Jesus reveals repeatedly that his kingdom shows itself in thankful living, loving and dying.

In essence this Taizé chant can be the very lifting mechanism that we need in the storm. It is in the LORD we are to be ever thankful, not

our circumstances. In the LORD we will rejoice. In looking to him we realise that he will never leave us nor forsake us. So there are opportunities to thank the Lord for who he is, what he has done and is doing in our lives. The Lord is near.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Deliverance

- 1 All the earth, shout and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One.
- 2 'Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid;
'For the Lord God is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.'
- 3 With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
- 4 On that day you will say,
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;
'Make known his deeds among the nations,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- 5 'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously;
let this be known in all the world.
Isaiah 12.1-5

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

Oh sorrowing God,
you show us that giving thanks can be painful,
that sharing can be costly.
As we learn to find gratitude for the things we don't want,
as well as finding gratitude for the things we welcome,
may we recognize that this is how your Kingdom comes,
that in the breaking and the sharing you show us who you
are and who we can be through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

DAILY WAITING

We meet your Word as a challenge to our self-identity.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for the confidence to stand in your presence.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer our examined pasts to your loving gaze.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you those broken relationships not open to healing.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

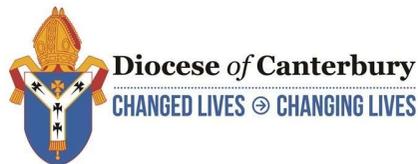
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with a clean heart.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with courageous self-reflection.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with your purifying love.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

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GATHERING

As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray
And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit
And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 3: SORRY

LISTENING

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted. (Luke 18.10-14)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

How do we present ourselves to God and to others; our friends, our families, the stranger, the call centre operative? There are many versions of ‘us’ and yet how much do we know of ourselves, truly? Even looking in the mirror we do not see a true image of who we are, but something that is back to front, distorted.

The Pharisee and the ‘sinner’ have a distorted view of themselves too. Only God can see into the darkness of our souls, but within that darkness God can see the shining diamond waiting for its vocation to be fulfilled. When all else is washed away; our sin, the things that bind, the graffiti on the heart, and our lack of self-reflection, what is left is the true image of God in which we were all made, the image that reflects God’s true nature; of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

The Pharisee looked down upon the ‘sinner’, and the ‘sinner’ looked down upon himself, but they both looked up to God in their prayers, misguided or not.

As we present ourselves to God in our prayers today, let us approach with holy boldness that yes, God can see into our deepest darkness, but God’s love penetrates that darkness and sees our hearts as they long to be, and God longs them to be. And not only our hearts, but the hearts in those we will present ourselves to today, those expected and those unexpected.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Penitence

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.
- 6 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 7 Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 8 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.
- 9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Psalm 51.1-3, 6-10

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

We wait upon the Holy Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

Oh merciful God, and full of grace,
as we come into your presence
may we remove, like outdoor clothes
all pretence, all show, all arrogance;
may our inner self be revealed,
humble, honest, open
and longing to be changed
by Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYING

Oh accompanying God,
you journey with us, even when in our stubbornness and despair
we seek to travel alone.
Enable us instead, like Naomi, to accept the offer of your company,
and to find our true hope and inheritance
beyond the barriers of difference,
belonging instead to you, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We meet your Word as we are embraced into your companionship.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We express our thanks together that in giving we receive.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We offer you our discomfort when we encounter the other.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We bear before you the vulnerability of those who do not have
choices.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with humility.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with open hearts to engage with strangers.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with endurance for the long road.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES

DAILY WAITING

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

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And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

DAY 4: OFFER

LISTENING

The woman (Naomi) was left without her two sons or her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' (Ruth 1.5b-10)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

To stay or not to stay? This is not just a question of choosing a preferred location. When 'change' creeps up on us or assaults us, our options shrink. Change compels us towards unchosen directions. Location, like vocation, is often chosen for us.

Naomi, the mother-in-law, needs to return to Israel for her own survival. The two widows don't. Relationships, in the end, govern their choices; Ruth makes an offer to accompany her mother in law. Ruth offers herself with all the binding and risk that would entail, to a new locality and to become a foreigner.

More people in 2020 are taking refuge in different lands because their homes have become unsafe. Statistics tell us that more people are seeking refuge than at any other time in the history of the planet. The forecasts are that climate change will be a colossal refugee creator, shifting populations' locations away from the increasingly flooded coastlines of every continent, and from where there is no water. 'Naomi' and 'Ruth' are in our national midst now, and our children and grandchildren will be the next potential climate change Naomis and Ruths.

This movement of people for security or for whatever reason is the background story to all human history. We move. This is the story of a faith that has migrated across the world. Faith moves us and with us. Naomi makes decisions on the move and so does Ruth. What they discover is that even in their differences, their love for one another enables them to take risks with and for each other.

May we too learn to open our hearts and offer our companionship to those from other homelands who have been forced from a place of

belonging. In opening our hearts and our homeland we are offering the opportunity to see the wonder and beauty of God reflected in the face of others.

'To stay or not to stay' is a real question for many on our shared fragile planet. Offering ourselves as companions in the midst of profound change is a powerful expression of hospitality where Christ becomes more visible in us.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

Psalm 57

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.
- 2 I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample on me.
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.
- 4 I lie down among lions
that greedily devour human prey;
their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongues sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.
- 6 They set a net for my steps;
my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my path,
but they have fallen into it themselves.
- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast.
I will sing and make melody.
- 8 Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

DAILY WAITING

We meet your word in experiences of pain.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for friends who pray alongside us.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer you our wills even when you ask what seems impossible.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you those who suffer alone.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

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Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with steadfastness in adversity.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with persistence in prayer.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the strength of your presence.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES



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And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 5: PRAY FOR

LISTENING

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'
(Matthew 26: 36-39)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

Sometimes you don't even have to pack a bag to go on a journey of a lifetime. Here in Gethsemane Jesus arrived in fear and confusion, yet by the time of his arrest by Pilate's soldiers, and the beginning of his long walk to Golgotha, he had travelled deep within himself and returned from this experience of prayer facing the future.

Jesus was not 'praying for' the list of situations we bring to our Sunday intercessions, or the names and hopes we carry in our hearts from day to day. Rather, in this short, one-line prayer we find lament and terror and a desperate need for courage. This is not the calm of piety.

His only words handed down to us are those of begging to be free, while at the same time, putting himself at God's disposal, and we recognise the humility of this dilemma with pity and with awe. This is a costly prayer for endurance, the endurance most of us have to face more than once in our living and our dying - a hardening of the will and determination not to flinch. But beyond endurance, God moved Jesus to an acceptance, a willingness to receive this cup of suffering, knowing that God remained alongside him, and suffered with him. It didn't make the pain go away, but by no longer fighting, he reached a new depth of relationship with God.

One way we experience God's 'alongsidedness' is through the prayers and attentiveness of others. As well as asking help from God, Jesus was asking something from his friends. We know that later in this

passage they fall asleep, and Jesus chides them, 'could you not watch with me for one hour?' (v 40). Here we see Jesus' loneliness, and the value of the support of others in prayer. Today we repeat this service every time we say to a friend or neighbour who faces an ordeal, 'I'll pray for you' - meaning, I'll stay awake, I'll sit with you. Jesus didn't ask of them words, he asked for his friends' presence.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

On Another's Sorrow: William Blake

Can I see another's woe,
And not be in sorrow too?

Can I feel another's grief,
And not seek for kind relief?

Can I see a falling tear
And not feel my sorrow's share?

Can a father see his child
Weep, nor be with sorrow fill'd?

Can a mother sit and hear
An infant groan, an infant fear?

No, no, never can it be,
Never can it be!

He doth give his joy to all:
He becomes an infant small:

He becomes a man of woe;
He doth feel the sorrow too.

Think not thou canst sigh a
sigh
And thy Maker is not by:

Think not thou canst weep
a tear
And thy Maker is not near.

O, he gives to us his joy
That our grief he may
destroy;

Till our grief is fled & gone
He doth sit by us and moan.

PRAYING

Oh God,
You could have walked away from us.
Instead you chose to drink the cup of bitterness
and feel our deep griefs.
Enable us to endure the place of suffering.
Stay awake with us in the dark of the night
as we pray again and again for your will to be done,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAILY WAITING

We meet your affirming Word that calls us to follow your lead.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks that your peace is all we have to offer.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer you our fear of being shown up as fools.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you the hidden angsts behind the closed doors of our neighbours.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

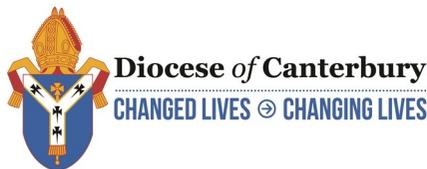
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with appreciation of simple kindnesses.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us to face the unknown.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with your compassion for others.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES

THE KINGDOM COME

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

This service is for use by individuals or groups and can be adapted to suit your context. Hymns, worship songs and additional prayers may be added as you wish. Italic text is intended as an instruction, plain text is to be read by a leader, bold text is to be read together.

GATHERING

As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 6: HELP

LISTENING

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

(Luke 10:1,5-9)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

I wonder if the 70 felt they were helping Jesus out, doing him a favour, making up the numbers? How long did it take them to realise, 2x2, that they were helping by 'asking' for help from others? Somehow, unprepared, under-resourced, vulnerable, armed only with what they experienced from companionship with Jesus, they were Jesus' front line for a peace offensive.

Slowly it is dawning (too slowly some would say) that our church buildings are not our greatest assets we have to 'help' people connect with God. However precious these gifts of holy and community spaces, the most transforming gift we have is within us through the Spirit of God.

The often told stories from Christian communities that are experiencing growth, in depth and numbers, seem to be that they are learning to get out of their churches. Instead of 'come to us' they are 'going to them', and finding that God, of course, is there to meet them! The risks Jesus took with his disciples were shocking. He sent them 2x2, out of their comfort zones - and maybe even his - to eat with

strangers and to find a new way of meeting - a different kind of peace. A peace that could even tolerate rejection.

So when Jesus seeks our 'help', he asks us also to be ready to be helped by others. May our Novena prayer be for the coming Holy Spirit to help us face our need to be vulnerable and ready to meet God in these encounters.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

The Song of Christ's Glory

- 1 Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
but he did not cling to equality with God.
- 2 He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
and was born in our human likeness.
- 3 Being found in human form he humbled himself,
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
- 4 Therefore God has highly exalted him,
and bestowed on him the name above every name,
- 5 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;
- 6 And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.5-11

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

Oh God of abundance,
who set aside your riches to take human flesh,
send us out together
to help one another and your world
empty of hand but full in heart
to bring peace, to share food, to heal, to dwell
and to leave behind us everywhere
your Kingdom blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DAILY WAITING

PRAYING

Oh God of longing hearts,
you make a place of stone into a place of life,
you make dry ground into pools of water.
Show us what it means
to live in your presence, to find strength in you,
to create Zion's highways in our hearts
every day, year and season of our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We meet you in all the places where you dwell.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our longing and yearning for you.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer you our journey, for transformation.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you all who travel unrelentingly dusty roads.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

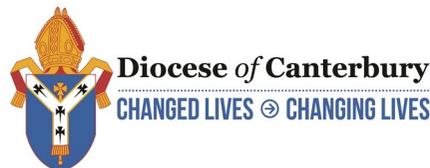
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with your company.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with responsive hearts.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with a song on the journey.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES
NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

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GATHERING

As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 7: ADORE

LISTENING

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints For the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.
Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the
highways to Zion; As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

(Psalm 84:1-7)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

In his poem 'Church going,' the poet Philip Larkin comes across a derelict church and stops to reflect on what meaning it contains, noting that

A serious house on serious earth it is
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet
Are recognised and robed as destinies.
And that much never can be obsolete

The Psalmist might agree. In this Psalm of longing and hope we are reminded that for different reasons birds and bats might be welcome in our churches, nuisance though they may seem, because they turn a place of stone into a living roost and show us that we all can find a home, a place of belonging, in God's presence. Adoring the temple and the experience of being there is a way of expressing love for God who it celebrates with its transcendent beauty. Maybe we ourselves have experienced or seen in others a sense of rebellion or boredom about 'having to go to Church' which can change into longing and joy when God has been encountered there and we can't wait to get back? And this Psalm also captures a sense of the corporate joy of the place where God dwells, where holy praises are forever sung. But outside God's house, life goes on, and sometimes it can seem as if

we're travelling endlessly through a dusty valley, as if we've been living in dust for years and years. The Psalmist again encourages us to discover the life of the place where we are. If 'Zion's pathways' are in our hearts, then that transforms the place where we put our feet and we can find springs of water as we travel through the dry river beds. We know that, after seasonal rains, life can race through these arid parched lands.

As the people of Israel journeyed through the wilderness, the Ark was the tangible reminder of God's presence with them always. On our pilgrimage through whatever land, we can travel lighter, knowing God is with us always, that his mobile, consoling, refreshing presence accompanies us.

He comes to us. We come to him. And we adore the place - wherever it is - where that occurs.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of the Wilderness

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song.
 - 2 They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
 - 3 Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
 - 4 Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.'
 - 5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
 - 6 Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.
 - 7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
 - 8 The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.
 - 9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

We meet your word in times of celebration.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for your power within us.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer our unending praise for all your works.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you those who cannot celebrate today.

(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

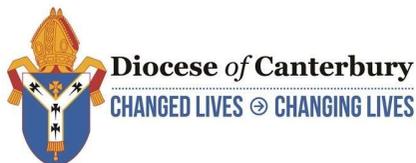
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Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with reasons to celebrate.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with more of your love and power.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with holy boldness to tell your truth.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



DAILY WAITING

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

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And kindle in us the fire of your love.

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And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

LISTENING

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will'.

(Luke 10:17-21)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

We can't help but be amazed, and incredibly happy, and perhaps a little relieved when God actually does 'stuff', and in particular, using us in the process. We can't help but tell anyone and everyone that will listen about what God has done.

When the seventy returned you can imagine all of them trying to get Jesus' attention with their stories of God's power working in them bringing about transformational change in individuals, communities and even themselves, speaking all at once like excited little children about what has happened to *them*.

But it is not about us, or about the transformed individual or community, it is about the One for whom we live and move and have our being. In God's gracious will does God move mountains and grow the seed of faith. We do not celebrate the act, but the amazing and wonderful God who performs it.

Today what stories of God in your own life or community can you celebrate with others? Take a moment now to share those stories and with the sharing rejoice that God is alive in you and your community and sing the Song of Joy with glad hearts like excited and happy children who can't help but speak of the amazing things that God has done.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Joy

- 1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
- 2 sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
- 3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
- 4 All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name."
- 5 Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
Psalm 66.1-5

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

We wait upon the Holy Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

Oh God, Lord of heaven and earth,
You hold both our failures and successes in your heart.
You take joy both in our great achievements and our tiny steps.
Now open our mouths to speak of our faith,
and open our eyes to see what you are revealing
so that we may share your joy
and proclaim the good news as we travel
with Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

DAILY WAITING

PRAYING

Oh God of the mountain top,
how often we think it is you
hurling rocks and scorching earth.
How often we misunderstand you.
May we not fear the silent place,
but come out of the darkness to meet you
and stand in the face of your question to us,
'What are you doing here?' **Amen.**

We meet your word in what is left unsaid.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We express our thanks that you find us when we hide.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We offer to return to your level path.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**
We bear before you our fears and failures, trusting that this is not
the end.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit. **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with signs along the way.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us times set aside for silence.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with second chances.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

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John 14 together:*

**I will ask the Father, and he will give you another
Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of
truth... On that day you will know that I am in my
Father, and you in me, and I in you.**

*Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light
a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

DAY 9: SILENCE

LISTENING

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' (1 Kings 19:11-13)

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

Elijah was very much a man of action, given to dramatic gestures. He hurried about here and there, mixing with monarchs and arguing with prophets. Not a quiet person at all. But when we meet him here, he's at the end of his tether, and has escaped to Horeb, running from both Jezebel and God. Just when he'd reached the high point of his success – when he'd defeated the gods of Baal by bringing down fire to prove his Lord's power, his mission had descended into chaos, and his life was threatened. This is why he's hiding in this cave, a safe but sterile place in which nothing takes root or flourishes, and light cannot penetrate. This is not a holy man on retreat.

The silence Elijah first experiences inside the cave is fearful, an absence of noise, and leaves him unmoored, surfing on waves of worry. He has yet to experience an invitation to truly listen, for only when the turbulence subsides does he reach the still depths filled by the silences of God. Then Elijah, anchored by silence, leaves the cave and meets God as a positive presence that sustains and energises him to face the piercing question 'What are you doing here?' Pause, and take a moment of silence; ask yourself, when do I hide in a cave? I too may be feeling 'stop the world, I want to get off'. Perhaps I've run

away from God, finding the challenge too difficult, and retreated, or blocked the opportunity for silence with pointless activity. So, on the brink of Pentecost, in the midst of pandemic, we hold our collective breath and wait for God's sheer silence to turn us in the right direction. Let us ask ourselves – as individuals, as church communities, as dioceses, the compelling question '*What are we doing here?*'

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Entreaty

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord;
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.
- 5 I remember the days of old,
I think about all your deeds,
I meditate on the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
- 7 Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.

Psalm 143 v 1 to 8

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**