

# THE BENEFICE OF THE ISLE OF WEDMORE



A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
FOR ASCENSIONTIDE  
SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

## Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is an annual invitation to prayer called by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Lasting for eleven days, the focus is specific prayer in churches, households and as individuals for friends, families, communities and countries to come to know the saving love of God in Jesus Christ, and for ourselves that empowered by God's Spirit we would grow in confidence to show and tell of God's love.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those they know
- Come to realise that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition.

Over the past three years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the country to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, you are invited to take part along with churches from over 65 different denominations in over 170 countries around the world.

## Opening our Hearts

**All** God has gone up with a shout.  
**the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

*Psalm 47:5*

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Words of welcome are said.*

## Opening Prayer

**All** God of all the Earth,  
be present with us now,  
in each of our homes,  
as we connect together.  
Build us into a spiritual house,  
a holy priesthood,  
offering spiritual sacrifices  
acceptable to you  
through Jesus Christ,  
our risen redeemer and healer.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)*

## Prayers of Penitence

Minister The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world  
And knows our every word and deed.  
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord  
And confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Minister Lord Jesus, you suffered a cruel death on the cross for our redemption,  
Yet we have forgotten your pain and stayed in the realm of the evil you defeated.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were raised from death to bring us new life,  
Yet we have preferred the comfort of the familiar,  
And the empty promises of a sinful world.



Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have ascended to your Father and our Father,  
Your God and our God;  
Plead there at the right hand of God  
For our forgiveness and entry into the fullness of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president assures us of God's forgiveness*

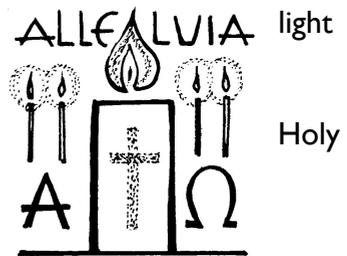
## Praise for the beginning of the day

Minister Blessed is the Lord,  
**All** **for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**  
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, creator God,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your Spirit moved over the face of the waters  
bringing light and life to your creation,  
pour out your Spirit on us today  
that we may walk as children of  
and by your grace reveal your  
presence.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and  
Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**



## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit*



### New Testament Reading

#### **Acts 1.6-14**

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'  
Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**All** This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle

**All** All nations shall come and worship You, O Christ,  
And share in the feast of Your kingdom.

**1** Great and wonderful are Your deeds,  
Lord God the Almighty.

**2** Just and true are Your ways,  
O ruler of the nations.

**3** Who shall not revere and praise Your name, O Lord?  
For You alone are holy.

**4** All nations shall come and worship in Your presence:  
For Your just dealings have been revealed.

**5.** To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
Be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
For ever and ever. Amen.

**All nations shall come and worship You, O Christ,  
And share in the feast of Your kingdom.**

*Revelation / 5.3,4*

**John 17.1-11**

*When the gospel is announced*

Reader Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All Glory to you, O Lord**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Reader This is the gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you, O Christ**

**The Sermon**

## **We Renew Our Commitment To Our Reigning Lord**

Let us affirm the faith of the Church which Christ commissions us to share with the world  
Do you believe and trust in God the Father source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?

**All I believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All I believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All I believe and trust in Him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## **The Intercessions**

*We pray to the Father in thanksgiving for the resurrection of Jesus and intercessions are offered for the church, the world in a time of crisis, those who are close to us and those who are sick.*

*The intercessions this week have been prepared by Michael Gelder, Reader for the Benefice*

Minister The Lord is here  
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give You thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.  
Born of a woman,  
He came to the rescue of our human race.

Dying for us,  
He trampled death and conquered sin.  
By the glory of His resurrection  
He opened the way to life eternal  
and by His ascension,  
gave us the sure hope  
that where He is we may also be.  
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy  
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

## The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

*To the tune of Woodlands (Tell out my Soul)*

1. Thy Kingdom come. Lord, teach us how to pray  
For all to know your joy, your peace, your love.  
And know your friendship each and evr'y day.  
The breath of Christ, the Father's gentle dove.
2. Thy Kingdom come. We pray for those we know  
To turn and follow you for all their days.  
And in your love find peace and service grow  
Our one desire and hope, your highest praise.
3. Thy Kingdom come. Transform our human ways;  
Our lives laid down in mercy truth and care.  
Nations renewed in giving thanks and praise;  
To see God's kingdom come, this is our prayer.

4. Thy Kingdom come! We praise your holy name.  
Your sacrifice and rising set us free,  
That by our words and lives we may proclaim,  
By Jesus' risen life, God's victory.

### Closing Responsory

As we wait in silence,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to Your word,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we worship You in majesty,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we long for Your refreshing,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we long for Your renewing,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we long for Your equipping,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

As we long for Your empowering,

**All make us ready for Your coming Spirit.**

### The Blessing

God the Father, who has given to His Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

**All Amen.**

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

**All Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out His abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Stay in your homes in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**