

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

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.

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES



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.