

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:

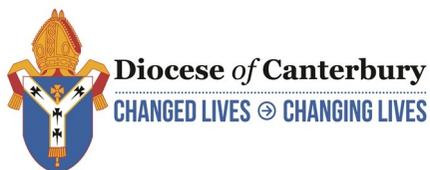
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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