

## PRAYING

*Silence is kept for several minutes, to allow people to pray for the 5 people they have chosen to pray for throughout the Novena. It may be appropriate to invite people to speak those names aloud if they wish to.*

We meet your word with expectant hope, believing in its power to transform.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We give thanks for situations where people are helping to make earth a little more like heaven.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We pray for those whose longing for heaven on earth stirs them to speak out against injustice.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you all who experience the hell of persecution here on earth because of their faith.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

Let us pray together as we prepare for Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church. Today, we give thanks for all who are praying with us throughout our world, -

In countries where the word of God is known and loved,

In places where our fellow Christians worship in secret and fear.

We give thanks that the good news of God's message is for everyone.

Lord, as the disciples met together and received the Holy Spirit,

We too thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon us,

And we pray that we may learn to use them wisely.

May we use them in our church community and beyond,

Taking the Good News to those who wait to hear your word.

*(Prayer written by Elizabeth Walsh - Authorised Lay Minister at Brents & Davington: St Mary Magdalene)*

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with vision to see what heaven can look like.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with determination to champion justice.**

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

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).*

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. Since the theme of Thy Kingdom Come 2025 is The Lord's Prayer, these liturgies invite us to pray that prayer immediately after the Scripture reading, rather than during the Intercessions, to allow us to bring it into focus before we meditate on it in the Reflection.

The Reflections are taken from the Thy Kingdom Come 2025 Novena booklet by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, and the Intercessions include prayers from our June Prayer Calendar, written by people from around the Canterbury Diocese.

## 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.*

*Pause for a few minutes in silence to welcome the leading of the Holy Spirit, and bring to mind the names of 5 people*

CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

*you will commit to praying for over the coming days.*

### **LISTENING** : Revelation 20:1-7, NRSV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

*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.**

### **REFLECTING**

Earth is supposed to be like heaven

‘On earth, as it is in heaven...’ Matthew 6:10 The first part of the Lord’s Prayer concludes with a petition that echoes the great biblical vision of a new creation and a new humanity, a new heaven and a new earth (see Revelation 21:1-2).

This is often misunderstood. The promise of the gospel isn’t really us going up to heaven, but heaven coming down to earth; or, as the Book of Revelation describes it, a new creation. Therefore, everything we pray for is gathered in to the phrase, ‘on earth as it is in heaven’. May God’s name be hallowed on earth as it is in heaven. May God’s kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. May God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The second part of the prayer shows us what we should be asking for ourselves as citizens of heaven.

Halfway through the very famous Hallelujah Chorus of Handel’s great Oratorio, Messiah, the choir breaks off from its triumphant phrases to declare, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our God and of His

Christ’ (Revelation 11:15). This too, like every bit of Handel’s Messiah, is a quotation from scripture, again from the Book of Revelation. It is a declaration of the great Christian hope; a longing for heaven which we now understand to be a re-creation and a re-ordering of the whole creation according to and guided by the loving purposes of God. In this new creation God reigns for ever. There is no need for sun or moon because Jesus is the light. There is no temple, because in Jesus we all now have access to God. We worship in Him and through Him. Its gates are never shut (Revelation 22:24). As we pray, Thy kingdom come, we are praying for earth to be heavenly, for the things of heaven to be seen on earth, and for the people we are praying for to arrive at that point where they too sing Alleluia and worship the Servant King. All because they glimpse the new creation and long for it to be established in the earth. And we also pray for ourselves: may God’s kingdom be seen in us; may God’s light shine through us; may our lives bear witness to an earth which is like heaven, and be living signposts to God.

Psalm 112:1-10, NRSV

1 Praise the Lord.

**Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.**

2 Their children will be mighty in the land;  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
**and their righteousness endures forever.**

4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
**for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.**

5 Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,  
**who conduct their affairs with justice.**

6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
**they will be remembered forever.**

7 They will have no fear of bad news;  
**their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.**

8 Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;  
**in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

9 They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,  
**their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.**

10 The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away;

**the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

**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.**