

DAILY WAITING

We meet your Word in the wondrous ordinary lives around us

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

We express our thanks for simple acts of grace

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

We offer again our lives to be bearers of light

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

We bear before you our stubborn refusals to share your salt and light

(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 hungry hearts**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with true repentance**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with receptive lives**

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



Diocese of Canterbury

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2019

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 1: PRAISE

LISTENING

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:13-16)

REFLECTING

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

What does Jesus see in us that we don't see in ourselves?

We are the what? Salt of the earth? Light of the world?

Excuse me Jesus, are you sure you've got that right?

Who is this that knows more about us and what we are capable of, than we do ourselves?

We are salt and light, and God has made us so. Praise him!

Who is it that invests himself in us with incarnate grace, and this indwelling reveals the character of the Holy One? It is a trust we are not capable of fulfilling, and yet he yearns for us to be hilltop disciples whoever and wherever we are, day or night. Praise him!

As we wait for the Holy Spirit to descend on us at Pentecost, perhaps God is waiting instead for the light in us to ascend- so to speak- to surface and erupt- in the same way the sun draws the sap up out of winter ground. This simple sap is the ordinary grace of being the beloved of God. Praise him!

May our lives fertilise, flavour and illuminate the communities God has placed us among. May those hilltop stories of revealed grace be like fireworks proclaiming the reality of Jesus Christ. Praise him.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of the New Creation

- 1 'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.
- 2 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,
- 3 Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.
- 4 Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
- 5 I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,
- 6 The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'
Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21

**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.

O God the source of all light,
May we bring salt and light to your world,
drawing out your presence in the everyday.

As we offer you our lives,
shape us as disciples,
that we may reveal your goodness
and reflect your light.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.