

We meet your Word as a challenge to our routines.

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

We express our thanks for the love that gives us confidence to take risks.

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

We offer our unexamined pasts to your loving scrutiny.

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

We bear before you those broken on the wheel of unhealed relationships.

(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 open hearts.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with courageous wills.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with your purifying love.**

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 2019

DAY 3: SORRY

LISTENING

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

(Matthew 5.23-25)

REFLECTING

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

Laying down. Pausing. Delaying the delivery of a duty-bound sacrifice. For what?

Jesus, the great grace-giver advises a diversion of energy. Giving something to God requires more than giving the thing itself. Some things are more important than what we think is the obvious thing at the time.

When first shown the image of these two figures, I wasn't sure if these were the two people in the process of reconciliation, or if they were an interior picture of what goes on in my head when I know, or think I know, I need to say sorry. The figures in my head, like in the image, seem to be both dancing and wrestling. The lines are blurred as one side, and then the other side gain the upper hand.

The push and pull of reconciliation is within us and also within the other. The 'other' is not a nameless sacrifice. They have a face and so do we. No reconciliation takes place in a vacuum, but in the rough and tumble of life where the lines are often blurred or buried under our shared histories. There is a cost.

Waiting for the Spirit to renew our lives and the lives of our communities is threatened; yes threatened, by our incapacity to be in the wrong, or to be seen to be so. The challenge of letting go our religious obligations, however worthy, to attend to the relational breaches that stare us in the face can make the church impotent.

Who have we or our churches wounded recently or historically? Even if we were not part of the wrong, does the wrong still hang over us? While we think we are waiting for the Spirit, maybe the Spirit is waiting for us?

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Humility

- 1 Come, let us return to the Lord ♦
who has torn us and will heal us.
- 2 God has stricken us ♦
and will bind up our wounds.
- 3 After two days, he will revive us, ♦
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.
- 4 Let us strive to know the Lord; ♦
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
- 5 He will come to us like the showers, ♦
like the spring rains that water the earth.
- 6 O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? ♦
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
- 7 Your love for me is like the morning mist, ♦
like the dew that goes early away.
- 9 For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, ♦
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'

Hosea 6.1-7,9

**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 of wholeness and hope,
healer of broken hearts and homes and communities,
impel us towards one another in acts of peace,
teach us to recognise and reconcile our conflicts
and to show forth your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**