

We meet your Word as we open up our empty hands to you

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

We express our thanks that you walk with us the difficult second mile

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

We offer you all those things that attract us more than Jesus

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

We bear before you all those who do not have the choice

(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 emptiness**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with fullness**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with endurance**

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



Diocese of Canterbury

CHANGED LIVES ⊕ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2019

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.

DAY 4: OFFER

LISTENING

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

(Matthew 5:38-42)

REFLECTING

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

How far are we prepared to go in our love for the world? A basic attempt at equality might seem possible, but when the scales begin to tip unfairly, we are quick to grab our wallets, cut our losses and clear out.

Some of us have the option but many don't. Those receiving a compulsory purchase order on their property don't. Those impacted by invasion and occupation don't. Those whose home is the street don't.

Jesus recasts the more difficult demands that life presents as an opportunity to bless others and to be different as well as to behave differently. To know the lightness of heart that comes when we cope with a slight, smile when cheated and gladly give up whatever shiny thing has most recently appealed to our magpie minds.

Dom Julian envisaged what it might look like to be stripped as bare as someone going to the cross in his powerful poem, 'If everything is lost.'

If everything is lost, thanks be to God
If I must see it go, watch it go,
Watch it fade away, die
Thanks be to God that He is all I have.
And if I have Him not, I have not anything at all.
Nothing at all, only a farewell to the wind
Farewell to the grey sky
Goodbye, God be with you, evening October sky.
If all is lost, thanks be to God,
For He is He, and I, I am only I.

It's a powerful thing to respond to need out of our own need and emptiness, though if we challenge ourselves to do that more often, we have more to give than we thought. We are all dependent on the generosity of God. We all have this to share with each other for a start.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of God's Compassion

- 1 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ♦
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 7 For he knows of what we are made; ♦
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 8 Our days are but as grass; ♦
we flourish as a flower of the field;
- 9 For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, ♦
and its place shall know it no more.
- 10 But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him, ♦
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 11 On those who keep his covenant ♦
and remember his commandments to do them.

Psalms 103.1, 7-11

**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

We wait upon the Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

O God of all we are and have,
in the face of oppression
help us to release to you
all that which holds us back, to give up gladly all that we carry,
not resisting, not refusing -
even walking the second mile
for the pure pleasure of seeing it go.
In Jesus' name,
Amen