

We meet your Word in friends and enemies alike
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come**

We express our thanks for the possibility of transformation
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come**

We offer you our world for healing
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come**

We bear before our struggle to understand others
(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 forgiving hearts**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with tolerant minds**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with love for our neighbours**

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 5: PRAY FOR

LISTENING

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

(Matthew 5:43-45)

REFLECTING

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

Are you ever kept awake at night worrying about your children and their future, or your own career, health or marriage? Perhaps you have your own particular and personal nightmares. But how often do you wake up full of concern about the angry man shouting outside in the street, waking everyone up and keying your car as he staggers away? Or does the universe ever keep you awake with its anguished heartbeat – is it simply too hot, too dry, too out of balance to sustain the life we need?

We all need space to breathe, grow and flourish. To accept that we're different, and in that we bless one another and our world – the space we share. And so we pray about more than our own inconvenience – the parking space, the rain stopping play or the bus that doesn't come. We stretch ourselves into the discomfort of those who have a different political allegiance, a different theological stance. We consciously pray for those who make life unpleasant or intolerable for us. We become children of God and disciples of Jesus.

In this passage, we're reminded that it's easy to love the loveable but praying for those who persecute us - well that seems like something only saints can do. Corrie Ten Boom, for example - probably many of us are familiar with the story in which she models the forgiveness of Jesus by taking the hand of one of the prison guards from Ravensbruck concentration camp where her sister, Betsie, had died. She wrote, 'Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality. Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that.'

And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. Help!' I prayed silently. 'I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling.' God answered that prayer.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

Psalm 67.1-7

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us ♦
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, ♦
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, ♦
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

**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, who in Jesus gave us an example
of how to embrace pain and opposition,
as we enjoy both sun and rain
from our common humanity help us
to pray intently for the redeeming and blessing
of our blue and green planet.
In Jesus' name, **Amen**