

We meet your Word made flesh in Jesus.

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

We express our thanks that journeys begun in faith end in discovery.

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

We offer adoration and willing submission to the Son of God

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

We bear before you the new-born, suffering in regimes of war and terror.

*(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 the joy of new adventures**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with persistence in our searching**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with humility enough to bend our knee**

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 7: ADORE**

## LISTENING

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(Matthew 2: 10-12)

## REFLECTING

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

Our reading today doesn't use the word *adore* at all, but speaks of the kings paying the child *homage*. Like knights in a feudal society, kneeling to swear loyalty, promising fidelity, they are admitting and accepting dependency – but to a child, not a powerful prince. In the feudal ceremony, the supplicant placed their hands in the clasp of their Lord. In many medieval paintings of the coming of the kings – known as 'Adoration of the Magi' – at least one of them kneels in a posture of submission to the baby.

Medieval feudalism was totalitarian, but this obeisance by the kings, and through their act, ours, is willing subordination to our sovereign. It is as if there is a spiritual compulsion drawing from them the absolute character of devotion. Their humility reverses worldly expectations. We are not called to adore the bling of power, for here the empire of wealth humbles itself before the poor.

Though this short reading is one of stars and happy arrivals, with the magi's adoration magnified by their joy at reaching their goal, our reading ends with a sense of threat. We experience in our divided world that the good is so often opposed by the dominance of the powerful. We adore in the push and pull of joy and sorrow.

Yet, as we gaze on our image of the child's hand wrapped around the king's finger, let us return to the hopefulness of the scene – adoration of new life, new possibilities, and the awakening of our protective instincts. This picture reverses the supplicant's act of placing their hands in the hands of their lord. Instead, our Lord, as yet a baby, already wraps us in his hold, and will never let us go.

*As time allows, share your insights with one another.*

A Song of Triumph

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦  
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God ♦  
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down ♦  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Psalm 95.1-6

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be forever. Amen**

## PRAYING

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

O God of star and stable,  
of wealth and poverty, darkness and light,  
we travel across a divided world to come to you;  
in time of turmoil may we find hope,  
do our homage, and find our gifts welcomed,  
gently extended to the world you love.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**