

We meet your word in times of great celebration, as well as the small celebrations of our souls

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

We express our thanks for the many opportunities we have to meet you in people, places and in silences

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

We offer back the gifts you have given us for your use

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

We bear before you all whose situations prevent them from seeing Jesus

(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 times of rejoicing**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with space to reflect on the Good News**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with people to share it with**

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 8: CELEBRATE**

## LISTENING

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

(Matthew 28: 8-10)

## REFLECTING

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

So, the envelope lands on the hall mat or the long awaited email pings onto the screen, it will contain news and that news will either send a burst of celebration or a mire of despair. Fingers are poised and there's that moment of expectation or anticipation and yes that subtle hint of fear. What will be the news?

Thus it was on resurrection morning. Expectation that there would be a body there, anticipation of a fresh overflow of grief for the beloved one. Instead Jesus was alive - present and available. The world turns inside out and upside down. Expectation and anticipation found new expression – "He's alive." Now there was new celebratory death-busting news, news that could not be contained or remain merely personal. This news had to travel. But more than that, the news had a promise. "Tell my brothers to go to Galilee, there they will see me. "

For all of us, there are the sometimes small celebrations of our souls - when, and often in unexpected places and people, we know that the celebratory news of Jesus continues to travel. We are suddenly aware that we too are seeing Jesus, maybe in the eyes of a young child, in the energy of youth, in the dedication of a teacher or a nurse, in the wisdom of the aged.

Strangely enough we also see him in the eyes of the bruised and the broken in our world, in those who have little, living in the pain of poverty or the destruction of war.

May our celebration of the presence of Jesus be more than just emotion and may we run joyfully into the Kingdom work Jesus beckons us towards.

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

## A Song of Joy

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God; ♦  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise; ♦  
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦  
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation

Psalm 100

**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 the resurrection morning,  
may we know what it is to joyfully meet this mystery  
and face our fears of the unknown.  
Give flight to our feet, as we run to share this news  
and meet you in every place.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**