

DAILY WAITING

We meet your word as praise opens our heart space.

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

We express our thanks that our lives can bring others to praise you.

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

We offer our praise through more than just words.

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

We bear before you our over occupied lives, yearning still for the freedom of serving you alone.

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

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:

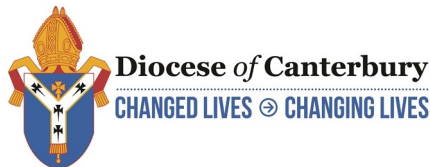
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit: **gift everything the breath to praise you.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift our praise with true wholeness.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with stillness in the midst of our journeys.**

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



CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES
NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2020

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 1: PRAISE

LISTENING

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

(Psalm 100)

REFLECTING

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

I will enter His courts with praise! I wonder what images that conjures up for you? Processions of brightly arrayed people, musicians loudly accompanying the singing, exuberant voices raised, bodies swaying to the beat of the music, ecstatic cries of hallelujahs resounding off the buildings so that even their stones seem to sing? How do you offer praise to an almighty and gracious God? Do you find that you need words at all or do you even need music? Do you need the company of others? Do you find with the Coronavirus restrictions praise in worship when you are actually with others is something you miss?

I wonder if deep praise is that which happens once you have entered into the close presence of God, when you are so in awe of his majesty, his glory, his sheer beauty and power that you simply fall silent and bring all of who you are.

Even in this space of praise when alone in our homes, can we become more utterly aware of all God has done for us and often in spite of us? Our loud hallelujahs melt away in our whispers of praise to the one from whom all good things come.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of God's Praise

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.
- 6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
- 7 When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
- 8 For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
- 9 My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

Psalm 63.1-9

**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

Oh welcoming God,
you invite us to journey with you through your beautiful world
and delight in your dwelling place.
So we will enter and exalt,
shout and sing,
placing our hope in you,
our good and forever God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**