

## PRAYING

*Silence is kept for several minutes, to allow people to pray for the 5 people they have chosen to pray for throughout the Novena. It may be appropriate to invite people to speak those names aloud if they wish to.*

We meet your word with the simple trust of little children.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We rejoice in the signs of new life springing up.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We pray for our world leaders, that humility will constrain them and possibility will inspire them.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you the children and young people of our diocese.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

Holy spirit, who came in the gentle form of a dove,  
Raise up leaders who cherish peace above violence.  
Father God, who gathers us in tender compassion,  
Provide safe haven for the children in our world who have been orphaned or abandoned.

Jesus Christ, who came to us in humility,  
Gift us with the wide-eyed wonder of childlike faith.

That we might enter into the things of your kingdom. Amen.

(Lyndall Bywater, Changing Lives Prayer Network Co-ordinator)

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with tender hearts and teachable minds.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with open eyes to see your kingdom coming.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with expectancy and flexibility.**

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

## 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. Since the theme of Thy Kingdom Come 2025 is The Lord's Prayer, these liturgies invite us to pray that prayer immediately after the Scripture reading, rather than during the Intercessions, to allow us to bring it into focus before we meditate on it in the Reflection.

The Reflections are taken from the Thy Kingdom Come 2025 Novena booklet by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, and the Intercessions include prayers from our June Prayer Calendar, written by people from around the Canterbury Diocese.

## 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.*

*Pause for a few minutes in silence to welcome the leading of the Holy Spirit, and bring to mind the names of 5 people you will commit to praying for over the coming days.*

CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

**LISTENING** : John 13:12-15, NRSV

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

*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.**

**REFLECTING**

God has a purpose for our lives and for the world

‘Your kingdom come...’ Matthew 6:10 The Kingdom of God isn’t a place. You can’t find it on a map. Its boundaries run through human hearts. It isn’t like the kingdoms of the world. It is not driven by the love of power, but by the power of love. Strangest of all, it is almost a kingdom without a king. Yes, of course, we call Jesus ‘King of Kings’ and ‘Lord of Lords’, and He is the one to whom every knee must bow. Yet He’s also the one who stoops to wash our feet (see John 13:3-5); who humbles Himself; who comes to us as one who serves (see Luke 22:27); and who was obedient to suffering death (see Philippians 2:6-8). So when we speak about the kingdom of God and when we pray, ‘Thy kingdom come’, we are referring to God’s rule of justice and peace: that the servant-hearted leadership that we see in Jesus may be the hallmark of the leadership of the world.

Therefore, Jesus teaches us about the kingdom, and in His own life and ministry shows us what living as a child of God’s kingdom looks like. We become citizens of God’s kingdom by the free grace poured out for us in Christ by His death and resurrection; but, as a consequence of grace, we are called to live like Jesus as well.

As Jesus is compassionate, merciful, hungry for justice and servant-hearted, we must be too. This is how God’s kingdom comes and how its boundaries are

extended. Jesus Himself taught us that we should receive this kingdom as a child and that children are the greatest in the kingdom (see Mark 10:14-15). To pray ‘Thy kingdom come’ is to ask the Holy Spirit to make us children of this kingdom. Not childish, but with child-like trust in God, for it is this parent child relationship which is the defining characteristic of our relationship with God. Therefore, we do not seek our own way or our own dominion over others, but God’s. Today we ask this not just for ourselves, but for those we love, for the leaders of the nations, and for all those who have responsibility over others or influence and agency in the affairs of this world; and for the five people we know who do not yet know Jesus.

Isaiah 42:1-9, NRSV

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

**I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.**

2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
**or make it heard in the street;**

3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

**He will faithfully bring forth justice.**

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
**who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:**

6 I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

**I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,**

7 to open the eyes that are blind,  
**to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

8 I am the Lord; that is my name;

**my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.**

9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;  
**before they spring forth, I tell you of them.**

**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.**