

DAILY WAITING

We meet your Word as a challenge to our self-identity.

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

We express our thanks for the confidence to stand in your presence.

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

We offer our examined pasts to your loving gaze.

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

We bear before you those broken relationships not open to healing.

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

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

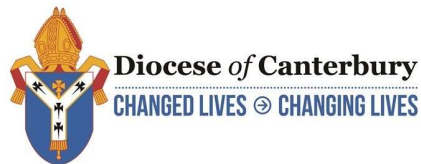
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with a clean heart.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with courageous self-reflection.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with your purifying love.**

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 3: SORRY

LISTENING

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

(Luke 18.10-14)

REFLECTING

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

How do we present ourselves to God and to others; our friends, our families, the stranger, the call centre operative? There are many versions of 'us' and yet how much do we know of ourselves, truly? Even looking in the mirror we do not see a true image of who we are, but something that is back to front, distorted.

The Pharisee and the 'sinner' have a distorted view of themselves too. Only God can see into the darkness of our souls, but within that darkness God can see the shining diamond waiting for its vocation to be fulfilled. When all else is washed away; our sin, the things that bind, the graffiti on the heart, and our lack of self-reflection, what is left is the true image of God in which we were all made, the image that reflects God's true nature; of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

The Pharisee looked down upon the 'sinner', and the 'sinner' looked down upon himself, but they both looked up to God in their prayers, misguided or not.

As we present ourselves to God in our prayers today, let us approach with holy boldness that yes, God can see into our deepest darkness, but God's love penetrates that darkness and sees our hearts as they long to be, and God longs them to be. And not only our hearts, but the hearts in those we will present ourselves to today, those expected and those unexpected.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Penitence

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
 - 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
 - 3 For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.
 - 6 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.
 - 7 Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
 - 8 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.
 - 9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
 - 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- Psalm 51.1-3, 6-10*

**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.

Oh merciful God, and full of grace,
as we come into your presence
may we remove, like outdoor clothes
all pretence, all show, all arrogance;
may our inner self be revealed,
humble, honest, open
and longing to be changed
by Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**