

DAILY WAITING

We meet your word in experiences of pain.

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

We express our thanks for friends who pray alongside us.

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

We offer you our wills even when you ask what seems impossible.

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

We bear before you those who suffer 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 us with steadfastness in adversity.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with persistence in prayer.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the strength of your presence.**

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 5: PRAY FOR

LISTENING

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.'
(Matthew 26: 36-39)

REFLECTING

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

Sometimes you don't even have to pack a bag to go on a journey of a lifetime. Here in Gethsemane Jesus arrived in fear and confusion, yet by the time of his arrest by Pilate's soldiers, and the beginning of his long walk to Golgotha, he had travelled deep within himself and returned from this experience of prayer facing the future. Jesus was not 'praying for' the list of situations we bring to our Sunday intercessions, or the names and hopes we carry in our hearts from day to day. Rather, in this short, one-line prayer we find lament and terror and a desperate need for courage. This is not the calm of piety.

His only words handed down to us are those of begging to be free, while at the same time, putting himself at God's disposal, and we recognise the humility of this dilemma with pity and with awe. This is a costly prayer for endurance, the endurance most of us have to face more than once in our living and our dying - a hardening of the will and determination not to flinch. But beyond endurance, God moved Jesus to an acceptance, a willingness to receive this cup of suffering, knowing that God remained alongside him, and suffered with him. It didn't make the pain go away, but by no longer fighting, he reached a new depth of relationship with God.

One way we experience God's 'alongsidedness' is through the prayers and attentiveness of others. As well as asking help from God, Jesus was asking something from his friends. We know that later in this

passage they fall asleep, and Jesus chides them, 'could you not watch with me for one hour?' (v 40). Here we see Jesus' loneliness, and the value of the support of others in prayer. Today we repeat this service every time we say to a friend or neighbour who faces an ordeal, 'I'll pray for you' - meaning, I'll stay awake, I'll sit with you. Jesus didn't ask of them words, he asked for his friends' presence.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

On Another's Sorrow: William Blake

Can I see another's woe,
And not be in sorrow too?

Can I feel another's grief,
And not seek for kind relief?

Can I see a falling tear
And not feel my sorrow's share?

Can a father see his child
Weep, nor be with sorrow fill'd?

Can a mother sit and hear
An infant groan, an infant fear?

No, no, never can it be,
Never can it be!

He doth give his joy to all:
He becomes an infant small:

He becomes a man of woe;
He doth feel the sorrow too.

Think not thou canst sigh a
sigh
And thy Maker is not by:

Think not thou canst weep
a tear
And thy Maker is not near.

O, he gives to us his joy
That our grief he may
destroy;

Till our grief is fled & gone
He doth sit by us and moan.

PRAYING

Oh God,
You could have walked away from us.
Instead you chose to drink the cup of bitterness
and feel our deep griefs.
Enable us to endure the place of suffering.
Stay awake with us in the dark of the night
as we pray again and again for your will to be done,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.