

We meet your word in times of celebration.

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

We express our thanks for your power within us.

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

We offer our unending praise for all your works.

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

We bear before you those who cannot celebrate today.

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

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

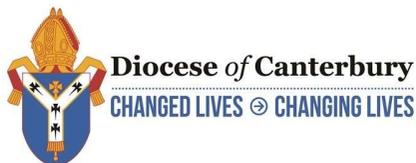
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with reasons to celebrate.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with more of your love and power.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with holy boldness to tell your truth.**

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.

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.

LISTENING

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will'.

(Luke 10:17-21)

REFLECTING

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

We can't help but be amazed, and incredibly happy, and perhaps a little relieved when God actually does 'stuff', and in particular, using us in the process. We can't help but tell anyone and everyone that will listen about what God has done.

When the seventy returned you can imagine all of them trying to get Jesus' attention with their stories of God's power working in them bringing about transformational change in individuals, communities and even themselves, speaking all at once like excited little children about what has happened to *them*.

But it is not about us, or about the transformed individual or community, it is about the One for whom we live and move and have our being. In God's gracious will does God move mountains and grow the seed of faith. We do not celebrate the act, but the amazing and wonderful God who performs it.

Today what stories of God in your own life or community can you celebrate with others? Take a moment now to share those stories and with the sharing rejoice that God is alive in you and your community and sing the Song of Joy with glad hearts like excited and happy children who can't help but speak of the amazing things that God has done.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Joy

- 1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
- 2 sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
- 3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
- 4 All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name."
- 5 Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
Psalm 66.1-5

**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 God, Lord of heaven and earth,
You hold both our failures and successes in your heart.
You take joy both in our great achievements and our tiny steps.
Now open our mouths to speak of our faith,
and open our eyes to see what you are revealing
so that we may share your joy
and proclaim the good news as we travel
with Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.