

We meet your word in times of dislocation and international upheaval.

(Pause)

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

We express thanks for saints down the ages who have lived out the reconciling truth of the Gospel.

(Pause)

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

We offer to you the plans and hopes of the Lambeth Conference

(Pause)

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

We bear before you the scattered people of Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria, who seek refuge in this country.

(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 difference that attracts
others to Jesus.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with openness to those we
disagree with**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with willingness to live out our
chosen-ness.**

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



CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2022

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.

DAY: 1

LISTENING

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, exiles, scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. (1 PETER 1:1-2, NIV)

REFLECTING

To be a Christian is to be marked out as 'different'. In his First Letter the apostle Peter writes to an exiled people, communities who are living as strangers and foreigners in Asia Minor. These people knew what it was like to be alien in their society – harassed and rejected. But Peter is also writing to a people who are exiled in a different sense: as Christians, we spend our lives on Earth in exile, separated from our eternal home in Heaven with the Father.

To be a Christian is to have been given a different identity to others: rather than defining ourselves according to our family, our nationality, how much money we have, or any of the other things we sometimes think make us who we are, we, the baptised, are 'in Christ', a deep truth which is both given and yet to be fully realised. We are called to find our identity solely in the person of Jesus Christ.

Peter speaks to those who are exiled but chosen by God. These communities may be reviled on Earth, but they are sanctified – made holy – by the Spirit. Christians are a people who do not consider earthly powers and leaders to be the ultimate source of authority: we are obedient to Jesus.

All this is only made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we pray fervently for others to turn their hearts and minds for Christ, let us start by asking: how do we live in a way that marks us out as different? Does our witness make people curious about faith, rather than resistant to it? How do I live my life differently because of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and how do others see and hear that?

Peter speaks to real communities facing real problems, but he greets them in the light of God's abundant grace and peace. May you bring that grace and peace to all you meet as you begin this journey today.

PSALM 61 (NRSV)

- 1 Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.
- 2 From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;
- 3 for you are my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.
- 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.
- 6 Prolong the life of the king;
may his years endure to all generations!
- 7 May he be enthroned forever before God;
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!
- 8 So I will always sing praises to your name,
as I pay my vows day after day.

**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

God, our Tower of Strength, hear my plea,
Enrol me in the community of your disciples.
Whether I dwell at home or in exile,
May I know my true place is with You.
When disaster overtakes disaster, and it seems that all is lost,
Bring exiles back to their own land and restore their fortunes.
May we become heralds of a new covenant of peace,
Through Jesus your Son,
Who ignored all boundaries and nationalities.
Amen.