

Uncover our desires and bring us to the place where we find meaning in our lives, Leading us to the gate of heaven,
Upheld by your strong yet gentle hand. **Amen.**

We meet your word in the dreams of our nights and the events of our days.

(Pause)

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

We express thanks for the people in our story who drew us to Jesus.

(Pause)

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

We offer you our hands to point friends towards the meaning of their lives.

(Pause)

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

We bear before you people who despair of ever finding a meaning they can trust in.

(Pause)

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

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

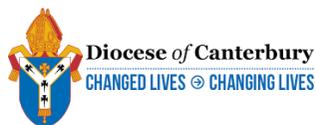
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with light to see in the dark.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with a voice to sing with the angels.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with rest for our restless hearts.**

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: 2

LISTENING

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

(1 PETER 1:12, NIV)

REFLECTING

Every single person seeks meaning for their life. All of us go through life searching for something. Perhaps we long to be loved, or accepted, or seen for who we really are. Maybe we yearn to understand who we are ourselves, and why we're here on this Earth. We desire to be closer to our God and creator, even if we aren't aware of it. We have this desire for meaning because this is how God has made us. And it is only His meaning which fulfils our searching. 'You have made us O Lord for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You,' as St Augustine famously put it.

Everyone who has ever lived has known this ache of longing. In today's verse, Peter talks about the prophets. They were searching too: 'inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated' (1 Peter 1:11). Even though Christ was not yet born, the Holy Spirit was within them, enabling them to anticipate God's greatest gift, Christ Jesus – God with us.

Now that person is revealed, the good news announced; and we are served, we learn, by those prophets who strove to be closer to God, over two and a half thousand years ago. Such is the wonder of God that we don't just make His promise known to those around us, but we can build a chain that may help those seeking long after we are gone.

And the truly astonishing news is that what we long for most has been given to us freely. The God we search for has not only come to us and lived with us; but died for us! We have been brought the good news by the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven! Even the angels have a longing to look closer into the wonder of our salvation.

Through this gift all are drawn towards salvation. The prophets searched for it. The angels long to look into it! God knows that we long

for His presence, but our longing for Him is but a pale reflection of His longing for us. That is why He sent His son. It's why He gives us His spirit. Calling to mind the five who are the focus of your prayers, what do you detect of their searching? How might you shine light, as the prophets of the Old Testament did, that helps direct people towards the treasure they seek? How can your search – which will last all of your life – point more people towards the God that extends His hand to us, and hopes we might clasp it back?

PSALM 63 (NRSV)

- 1 O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is
no water.
- 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
- 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
- 4 So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
- 5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,[a]
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
- 6 when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- 7 for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

**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 of humanity,
We are bounded by gravity,
But as Jacob dreamed of the angels ascending and descending to earth,
So we yearn to find the place where the Lord is to be found.