

PRAYING

Silence is kept for several minutes, to allow people to pray for the 5 people they have chosen to pray for throughout the Novena. It may be appropriate to invite people to speak those names aloud if they wish to.

Loving God, You empower your church by the gift of your Spirit.
Open our hearts to receive afresh all that you purpose,
Unleashing compassion, releasing change,
Transforming a tired and broken world,
Through the creative grace of your holy Son,
Whose promised gift we celebrate at Pentecost. Amen.

(Prayer written by Revd Canon Kerry Thorpe - PTO Clergy in the Thanet Deanery)

We meet your word with hopeful hearts, willing for change and re-creation.

(Pause)

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

We give you thanks for the privilege of being gardeners, tending your beautiful creation.

(Pause)

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

We offer to you our prayers for countries where famine and drought are daily realities.

(Pause)

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

We bear before you all who tirelessly campaign for climate action.

(Pause)

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

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

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with wonder at all you have made.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with determination to care for our planet.**

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

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. The reflection is taken from the Thy Kingdom Come 2024 Novena booklet by Bishop Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion).

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

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.
(Revelation 1:8, NRSV)

REFLECTING

Just this one short verse at the beginning of the last book in the Bible says so much about our God. This is the God who made everything, who reveals Himself and saves us in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who takes up residence by His Holy Spirit in the lives of everyone who puts their faith in Jesus.

The New Testament was written in Greek. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega, used here as a description of God, reassure the Christians enduring Roman persecution that, whatever happens, God is in control and they are safe for time and eternity.

If we think back to the first book in the Bible, Genesis, the book of beginnings, we have a picture of God creating everything, including human beings made in His image. He entrusts to them the care of the garden He has made. Reminding us that our God is the Almighty One is something of a wakeup call. It is so easy for our faith to become just one tree in the forest of our lives rather than the Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, being our foundation, our sustaining power, and our eternal home.

God loves to create and to re-create when things go wrong. When this happens, when our sin spoils and scars the world, our relationships with each other and our relationship with God, He already has a plan of salvation ready. It is a plan that will lead to the crucifixion, the resurrection and the glory of heaven for those who believe in His son, Jesus Christ.

An African proverb says: 'If you want to sit under a shade in your old age plant a tree now.' Almighty God, who wants us to spend eternity with Him in the shade of the new heaven and earth He created has planted the tree in the shape of Jesus' cross. By His Holy Spirit we are His new creation, and His desire is for everyone to share in that.

The current desire of so many people across the world to look after our world is a demonstration of what it means to be made in God's image. We have a hunger to be gardeners even if we don't know the Lord of the garden.

As we hold our five people before the Lord today, thank God for them and pray that their and our desire to look after God's creation will lead us to know and love the one who made it.

Psalm 148 (NRSV)

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

3 Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

6 He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

8 fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

9 Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

10 Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

12 Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

**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.**