

We meet your word in our conversations and interactions.  
*(Pause)*  
 Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**  
 We express thanks for times when we have experienced love in action.  
*(Pause)*  
 Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**  
 We offer ourselves to be channels of your love in this world.  
*(Pause)*  
 Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**  
 We bear before you those who believe you to be distant or disinterested.  
*(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 compassion and empathy.**  
 Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with creativity in the ways we care for others.**  
 Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with sacrificial love.**  
 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 2023 Novena booklet by the Very Reverend Bob Keys.)

## 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**

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only son into the world that we might live through Him.(1 John 4:9, NIV)

**REFLECTING**

‘You don’t know what it’s like!’ is a cry of despair, frustration and pain. When we feel misunderstood, when it seems that friends simply don’t ‘get’ the pressure we’re under, when we feel unjustly judged or criticised we want to yell: ‘Try walking in my shoes. Try living my life.’

As we think of God, who He is, especially His greatness, majesty, glory ... all those great biblical words that emphasize the ‘Wow!’ factor of the creator of all things, it is easy to slip into thinking: ‘So what can He possibly understand of my life in 2023?’ Isn’t God a spectator, an observer, all-knowing perhaps, but far away and uninvolved?

In this letter, St John underlines the greatness and glory of the great creator. He stresses His triumphant relational love which drives the whole story of salvation. Now it gets even better. In today’s verse we are assured that this Lord is no distant disinterested onlooker but one who understands what it is like to live our life, because He Himself came in the Lord Jesus Christ. This coming into the world is the guarantee that God understands us through and through because He has shared our life and walked in our shoes. The one without whom, as St John’s Gospel puts it, ‘nothing was made that has been made’ ( John 1:3), was content not only to be a carpenter in Nazareth and a member of a downtrodden race in an occupied country, but also a microscopic foetus in Mary’s womb.

As we pray for our five today, we pray that they may catch a glimpse of what theologians call the transcendence and immanence of God, His glory, and His closeness. Pray that they may find Him a friend who understands them, and a Lord who loves them.

This verse is a wonderful reminder that love is not just a feeling, but a decision of the will. It shows itself in positive action as we Live the Kingdom. We love the hungry with food, the lonely with companionship. We love those who don’t yet know Christ by living and speaking for Jesus with humility and integrity.

**PSALM 112** (NRSV)

- 1 Praise the Lord.  
**Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.**
- 2 Their children will be mighty in the land;  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- 3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
**and their righteousness endures forever.**
- 4 Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
**for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.**
- 5 Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,  
**who conduct their affairs with justice.**
- 6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
**they will be remembered forever.**
- 7 They will have no fear of bad news;  
**their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.**
- 8 Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;  
**in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**
- 9 They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,  
**their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honour.**
- 10 The wicked will see and be vexed, they will gnash their teeth and waste away;  
**the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

**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**

Jesus Christ, friend and companion, You know our weakness, you were tempted as we are. Wash away our guilt and shame by the balm of your love. And, as we receive that love, May it season our interactions, May it flavour our speech, May it be a fragrance which draws people to you.  
**Amen.**