

We meet your word, hungry and thirsty to taste more of your Spirit.
(Pause)

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

We express thanks for Her Majesty the Queen and her example of tenacious faith.

(Pause)

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

We offer our own lives to be landing places for your glory.

(Pause)

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

We bear before you all whose wellbeing is threatened because of race, creed, class or orientation.

(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 infectious joy as we tell our
faith story to others.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with renewed hope to pray for
miracles.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with fresh wonder at the
transformations you can work.**

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: 9

LISTENING

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
(1 Peter 4:14, NIV)

REFLECTING

Hope in the midst of persecution is a clear theme throughout the Book of 1 Peter. It's both an encouragement and a promise – suffering will give way to glory. It works through the past, present and future: Jesus has prevailed on the cross and in raising Him to life God the Father has overcome death. The Holy Spirit is with us in the here and now. Christ will return in glory. There is every reason for hope.

Here, Peter takes something considered by the contemporary world to be shameful – for the community he writes to, and for many people around the world today, it is being a Christian.

Jesus died whilst being mocked, insulted, and berated. He died in shame. Yet this is what He was born to do, the hour for which He came. For this death reveals the glory of God. God's glory seen in the humiliation of Christ, as God bears our sin and shares our pain. The glory of God is how He loves us. This shameful death transforms shame into victory, unholiness into holiness.

Life as a Christian isn't all suffering. It's experiencing the joy which the certainty of the hope brings, even in the darkest times. The promise of a world where everything will one day be made new.

When people see that hope being lived, incredible things can happen. The living God gives people a living hope.

As we live as Christians we experience God's blessings, even as we know humankind's suffering. St Paul talks about us sharing His sufferings, that we may enter into His glory. It is the depth of glory found in the unexpected places, in the darkest corners, in those who are rejected and abused. It is knowing that God considers us worth dying for, and that no experience of suffering or sorrow is able to overcome the capacity of God to bring life.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Whatever we are going through, the prayer, 'Come Holy Spirit' changes things. Pray most especially the

Holy Spirit would so work in your five friends that they are able to enter into glory through the sufferings of Christ. In the beauty, the magnificence, and the joy of our lives, as well as the suffering and the pain, is the glory of God who will come again.

May the Spirit of glory be upon you, and upon those you pray for, today and all your days.

PHILIPPIANS 2 (NRSV)

- 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death
even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the
earth, and every tongue should confess
11 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**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 companion through every trial and persecution,
Cause us to glimpse your glory as we live out our faith;
Embolden us to speak your truth, no matter how it may impact our
reputation.

Sustain those for whom persecution is a daily reality,
And challenge us to look beyond our own needs,
That we might stand with them in solidarity and prayer.

Amen.