

Pentecost Novena

11th May to 19th May 2018



We invite you to pray with Christians from around the world during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost as we pray afresh for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

In doing so, we join thousands of others around the world as part of Thy Kingdom Come – an initiative encouraging people to explore through prayer how they might courageously witness to God's life-changing work.

As the apostles prayed together following Jesus' ascension, waiting for the Holy Spirit to come at Pentecost, so we wait and pray today.

They prayed in obedience, trusting that the way ahead would be revealed. May we, like the disciples, pray anticipating that the Spirit will show us new ways of living and loving.

May we be open to where God leads us, to be the change God wants to see in the world - whatever that might require.

As God is at work in us he is also at work through us changing the lives of others. Please join with us as we pray together: 'Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come' and may our waiting and praying this Novena open our hearts afresh to God's possibilities.

How to use this booklet each day

WAIT prayerfully for the Holy Spirit. Pause, creating a space into which God can speak.

READ the Bible text, allow it to enliven your heart, stir your soul and spark your imagination.

LISTEN for insight through idea or image, through recollection or curiosity. Let that Word dwell within you, as you listen for yourself and your community.

RESPOND to the prompting of the Word, with an action that leads to life-giving change. Let the words of the collect gather up and bless these moments of prayerful waiting upon God, so his Kingdom might be seen more fully in you.



Friday 11 May: Praise

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favour, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.
(Psalm 30:6-12)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh God, maker of mountains present in our highest heights and lowest depths, as we recognise all that you have saved us from, help us also to see the life you lead us to. Drawn from the pit of despair may we stir up dust to sing and make it our delight to dance in praise of you.

Amen.

Saturday 12 May: Thanks

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."
(Luke 17:11-19)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh God of pity and of the pitiful, help us to recognise ourselves in this story and to weigh the gratitude in our hearts. As we throw ourselves at your feet, heal us, and be a wellspring of thankfulness rising up in us for change and transformation.
Amen.



Sunday 13 May: Sorry

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.
(Mark 14:66-72)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh God of the cock-crow and the bitter tears, may our hearts be truly broken by every denial of your long, suffering love for us, every rejection of each other, every cowardly and self-protective moment. With the morning, bring your mending so that dauntless we may find ourselves able to walk the way of the cross again.
Amen.



Monday 14 May: Offer

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

They brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord." She left him there for the Lord.
(1 Samuel 1:25b-28)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh self-surrendering God, you are glad for each gift we offer up to you. As Hannah let go of everything she had prayed for, everything she had longed for, everything you blessed her with, it seems her heart did not break and that you blessed her more. So in our letting go of everything we pray for, and everything we long for, may we too know your blessing breaking in our lives. Amen.



Tuesday 15 May: Pray for

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

*“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”
(Matthew 7:7-12)*

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh God of invitation, as we stand at the door, as we ask the hard questions, as we search you out, may we sense you already at work preparing a feast of answers, drawing us over the threshold and satisfying all our hungers. Amen.

Wednesday 16 May: Help

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven ... I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"
(Mark 2:1-5, 11-12 abr.)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh faithful God, help us to find our way through the crowd to you. Grant us faith to rip off the roof so we may see your face; help us not to mind the mess when we bring others into your presence for the first time. And if we should ourselves be paralyzed by fear and indecision bless us with friends who will place us before your eyes and entreat your healing.
Amen



Thursday 17 May: Adore

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ... And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" The shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ... The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:8, 13-18, 20 abr.)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

Oh revealing God, as we stand transfixed in an unexpected place, crumpled and surprised to find ourselves here, invited, yet uncertain on the threshold, help us to recognise our gorgeous Lord Jesus. Drawn in, may we kneel in wonder. May we go away changed. May we draw others to the stable too. Amen.



Friday 18 May: Celebrate

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. (Isaiah 25:6-10)

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

*Oh gentle God, you cross all the barriers of separation; longing to be near us, you wipe away our tears, you shower us with precious gifts; your comfort soothes away our shame. May we spread the word that you have spread a table - and that all are welcome at your feast.
Amen.*



Saturday 19 May: Silence

WAIT... with prayerful expectation.

Come Holy Spirit: Thy Kingdom Come.

READ... the text with an open mind.

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
(Psalm 130:5-6)*

LISTEN... for a word with a willing heart.

RESPOND... with prayer and action.

*Oh God of the new day, your Son Jesus knew what it meant to watch and wait through the dark silence of the longest night. Teach us how to wait with heaven's indrawn breath on tiptoe with anticipation, until all of our being reaches towards you, all our desire is for you, and all our onward movement is for your Kingdom coming.
Amen.*



THY KINGDOM COME

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