

PRAYING

We wait upon the Holy Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

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.

We meet your Word in our broken promises and failed ambitions.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for your grace and mercy.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer to you the fragments of our good intentions.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you our confident hope of restoration.
(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 forgiveness and peace.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the knowledge of your love.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the courage to try again.**
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 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.

CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2018

DAY 3: SORRY
Sunday 13 May

LISTENING

Mark 14:66-72

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.

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

The story of Peter is familiar for many Christians, but with the retelling I find it loses none of its power – perhaps because it speaks so honestly of the human condition. Of all Jesus' friends, Peter is probably the most headstrong and eager to please. At the transfiguration (Matt 17), he's the one eager to put up tents to accommodate Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Matthew tells us that, when Jesus famously walked on water to help his disciples in distress, it was Peter who wanted to step out of the boat and join his friend. At Jesus' arrest, Peter is said to have cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in order to defend his friend against the arrest. Peter's loyalty and devotion to Jesus seemed rock-solid – like his namesake, given to him by Christ himself. And yet, at the moment of testing, when the time comes to prove his dedication to Jesus, Peter fails. The picture we have of Peter in the New Testament is of a man who never, ever, did anything by halves – and here we see how hard he fell.

While Peter appears to have failed Jesus, it's interesting to note that Jesus never demanded that Peter stick by him to the bitter end – in fact, he warned Peter that this fall was coming. What makes this story so heart-breaking is the fact that the pain Peter feels is the pain we all experience when the person we imagine ourselves to be is confronted

by the harsh reality of who we really are. Peter is not convicted by a harsh word or look from Jesus, but by his own conscience and memory. And he doesn't say sorry – not yet – but he is consumed by sorrow. And he occupies this place of shame for a further three days until Jesus is able to look him in the face and redeem their friendship.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of Penitence:

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned ♦
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 Cast me not away from your presence ♦
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 7 Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 8 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦
and sinners shall return to you.
- 9 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation, ♦
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. Amen.**