

## PRAYING

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

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.**

We meet your Word in spacious silence.  
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for the gifts that come when we really listen.  
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer to you our community's hunger for direction.  
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you those waiting to sing again your song of love.  
(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 anticipation and hope.**  
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with confidence in your call.**  
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with resilience to follow where you lead.**  
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.*

## LISTENING

Psalm 130: 5-6

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.

## REFLECTING

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

Waiting so often seems pointless. It frustrates our plans and thwarts our ambitions.

And yet, something happens, or can happen, in the waiting. To the psalmist the posture of waiting holds promise, the possibility of soulful silence.

The figure in today's image seems fuller in the reflection below than above the horizontal line. Silence allows what lies below the surface to be recognised, for better or worse, for what it is, and more than that, as the place where God dwells. 'Silence is necessary if we are to hear God speaking... (Martin Laird 'Into the Silent Land')

Silence can be many things. It is not always welcomed as a space of prayerful peace. Silence can be seen as a thing to be avoided because we encounter things we prefer left alone. Maybe this is why we fill up our individual and public spaces with distracting music or chatter?

Our waiting can be, like pregnancy, a time of gestation, allowing what is to be, to take shape and reveal itself. Waiting and silence, rather than being the enemy of our plans and ambitions, is a discipline of prayer to be cultivated for a deeper relationship with God.

The ascending Christ invited the disciples to wait. They were without Jesus' presence, and aware of his absence. They took up his instructed posture of prayerful waiting- with a readiness for what God would bring. We in 2018 know that the waiting produced Pentecost. But still, we are invited into silence today.

It is almost as if the disciples' capacity for receiving tongues of fire rested on their capacity to prayerfully wait, in silence. From these silent spaces tongues of fire burst into life and the community of the church was born.

How can we as Christian communities enable the prayerful silent spaces within our personal lives, our church communities, our local living communities? Can we generate new life that flows within us and through us with healing and hope for all?

*As time allows, share your insights with one another.*

Psalm 62:

- 1 On God alone my soul in stillness waits; ♦  
from him comes my salvation.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, ♦  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.
- 3 How long will all of you assail me to destroy me, ♦  
as you would a tottering wall or a leaning fence?
- 4 They plot only to thrust me down from my place of  
honour;  
lies are their chief delight; ♦  
they bless with their mouth, but in their heart they curse.
- 5 Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul; ♦  
for in him is my hope.
- 6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, ♦  
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.
- 7 In God is my strength and my glory; ♦  
God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.
- 8 Put your trust in him always, my people; ♦  
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

**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.**