

INTERGENERATIONAL NIGHT PRAYER



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movement
DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

What is Thy Kingdom Come?

After Jesus' ascension, his disciples gathered, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We know that the transforming work of the Holy Spirit is still needed in every land and amongst every people - and we believe that our prayers make a difference. Like those first disciples, we want our friends, family and the whole world to hear the Good News; to experience God and His Kingdom.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus and experience his Kingdom. Jesus teaches us to pray "Thy Kingdom Come" and so we follow his leading, joining with others around the world to:

- Pray for five of our friends or family to come to know God.
- Pray for the world to hear the Good News; to experience God and His Kingdom.
- Ask God to help us speak Good News and live God's Kingdom way.

During Thy Kingdom Come, you are invited to discover new habits and ways of praying to God, that those whom you know might come to know Jesus. Whether you are new to 'structured' prayer or an old hand, you are invited to try praying with us. We hope you may find in it a spiritual rhythm which will nourish your heart and keep prayer on your lips, enabling you to become part of this global wave of prayer.

What's this booklet for?

This is a Intergenerational Night Prayer booklet for your family, whānau and local faith community to pray and worship over this time. We know that the Holy Spirit is for all ages, all people, and we express the body of Christ in its fullness when we gather together to pray.

Pray for Five

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. Consistently praying for others takes discipline, and there are many ways that we can build up habits that will help us to pray for our friends and family.

Over Thy Kingdom Come we are encouraged to pray for five friends or family to come to know God.

Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. You may find it useful to try one of these to remind you to pray for them:

- Take a piece of string or cord, and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted string in your pocket, tie it round your wrist or place it somewhere that you'll see it regularly. Use the knots to remind you to pray for each person on your list of five.
- Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray. Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.
- Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.
- Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.

Notes on the liturgies

These liturgies are written so that anyone can lead - a child, or an adult. Sometimes one person will lead the whole liturgy. Or people can take turns leading different parts. Kei a koutou – it's up to you!

The normal text is read by the leader. We say the parts in bold together. The parts in italics are instructions.

God doesn't need us to do anything special in order to show up. However, having tangible reminders of God's beauty and the story that we have been invited into helps us to respond to God's goodness and beauty. One way we do this is through visual symbols (a candle, the communion, a cross, a bowl of water). Another way we do this is by creating a space where all our senses can engage. For example, this might include ensuring that everyone is comfortable and removing things that might distract us from participating fully (e.g. putting our cell phones away).

Opening

This is the time
when light fades
and shadows lengthen
and sounds are subdued –
all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time
when bodies relax,
minds unwind,
and tiredness comes –
all as God intended.

Amen

This is the time
when others greet the morning
while we meet the night,
and the world continues to sing,
in all the accents of creation,
a love-song to its Maker.

Blessed be God's Name.

Examen

Come, brother Jesus, be our guest,
stay with us for day is ending.

Today is a day in eternity.
The fruit of your kingdom will last forever.
Your Spirit transforms the world
We are grateful for the day

Koia nei tētahi o ngā rā mutunga kore.
Ka pūmau tonu ngā hua
a tō rangatiratanga.
Ka whakaahuatia te ao e tō Wairua Tapu.
E whakawhetai ana mātou te rā nei.

Take a moment to thank God for something you have done, experienced or a person you have met today.

Jesus, you have been with us.

Silence

Through you we share this
life together.

Silence.

In you we are a light to the world.

Silence.

Amen, **amen.**

E Ihu, kua noho mai koe ki ō mātou taha.

He wā ngū

Māu e noho tahi nei mātou i tēnei oranga.

He wā ngū

I roto i a koe, ka tū mātou hei rama mō te ao
whānui.

He wā ngū

Āmine, **āmine.**

Scripture

In the world many things happen at night:
people travel, people meet,
people have secret conversations,
people lie awake restless,
people sleep through exhaustion.

And this has always been so;
holy books bear witness to it.
So let us hear a night story from the Bible.

A story is read and may be followed by conversation or silence.

You may like to read the Evening lectionary reading, in an easy-to-read translation for children to understand, or a well loved Bible Story, such as the story of Pentecost or the day the church was born (Acts 1-2).

Confession

With open hearts,
we confess to God and each other
that our words, actions and thoughts of today
have not always been pleasing to you.

God forgives us, God sustains us
We are being transformed by love

Peace and grace are here.

We walk on.

**We walk on together to more truth,
more justice, more love. Amen.**

Night prayer

What if the darkness covers us
and the day around us turns to night?
Darkness is not too dark for God
to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray

You never sleep, God.
You are always awake, always watching,
always willing the world and its people
to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep
because of illness,
or worry,
or fear;
or for reasons they cannot understand.
(pause)
God be near them.
God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wait
patiently or impatiently
for a birth
or a death,
for a visit,
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.
(pause)
God be near them.
God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,
who look for inspiration,
who do not know your love for them.

We pray for 5 of our friends who do not know you as Beloved, Prince of Peace.
*(pause - you may like to name your friends by name, light a candle or place a
symbol of your prayers in the centre of your family)*

God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us
as we share with you
whatever joys or sorrows,
discoveries or questions
we will take with us into the night.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

Into your hands, we find rest –
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –
for all things come from you
and are best kept in your care.

Amen

For the day now done

thanks be to God.

For the rest before us

thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps, so that we can,

thanks be to God.

May God kindle in us
the fire of love
to bring us alive
and give warmth to the world.

Amen.

