



st james
in the city

Thy Kingdom Come
30th May - 9th June
2019



#PLEDGE2PRAY

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Resource Booklet

Introduction

This year we will again be joining many Christians around the world to pray for people to know Jesus Christ. This initiative was started in 2016 by the Archbishops of York and Canterbury for the Anglican church. It has now grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The 10 days of prayer starts on Ascension Day (when we remember Jesus' return to heaven 40 days after his resurrection) and finishes on Pentecost Sunday (when we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples).

At St James we are going to join in with this movement of prayer with our own events. Whether you come to none or all these events, we hope that you will commit to spending time over these 10 days to pray for and with God's worldwide church. Our prayer is that you will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit and that you will find new confidence to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

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This year we have a focus on growth and our use of the church building. We continue an eight-part sermon series on 2nd June looking at the book of Hosea and there will be a chance to pray for the world and the church during the 10 days.

This booklet has resources for the 10 days and a timetable of events. We hope it is useful.

In this booklet you will find:

- A daily reading plan through the Book of Hosea.
- Ways to structure your quiet time for the event.
- Timetable of events.
- Other prayer ideas and resources

Daily time with God

As we continue a sermon series on the Book of Hosea, we want to encourage you to use the book in your daily quiet times. Below is a daily reading plan that will take you through the whole of Hosea over the course of Thy Kingdom Come. It helps to have a regular time when you can sit and read each day. A quiet room where you won't be disturbed, and a comfy seat can also help.

Thursday 30th	Hosea 1:1-2:23
Friday 31st	3:1-4:19
Saturday 1st	5:1-15
Sunday 2nd	6:1-11
Monday 3rd	7:1-16
Tuesday 4th	8:1-14
Wednesday 5th	9:1-17
Thursday 6th	10:1-15
Friday 7th	11:1-12:14
Saturday 8th	13:1-16
Sunday 9th	14:1-9

We suggest having a structured prayer time (if you don't already have one) and have produced a framework for you below which may help. You may find in it a spiritual rhythm which will nourish your heart and keep prayer on your lips.

- You can read what follows out loud, or to yourself.
- You can pray by yourself or in a group. When in a group, everyone can say the words in bold type. You can choose to say or sing the psalms and songs together or to choose someone to speak and others to listen.
- You can choose your own psalms, songs, and readings, or use the ones given.
- There is a passage of Scripture for each day of *Thy Kingdom Come*. You may wish to use each on the day for which it is listed, or you could use the readings from Hosea above.
- In the Prayers, you can pray out loud or silently whether by yourself or in a group, and you can pray in your own words or use the ones suggested.

Preparation

[We ask God to guide us as we pray]

O God, make speed to save us.
All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Gladden the soul of your servant,
All
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Praise

[An act of praise. You can use some music or other prayer instead]

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

[The Song of the Three 29-34]

The Word of God

[A psalm may be said or sung.]

Thursday 30th (and any day) - Psalm 47

Friday 31st - Psalm 81

Saturday 1st - Psalm 47

Sunday 2nd - Psalm 76

Monday 3rd - Psalm 16

Tuesday 4th - Psalm 99

Wednesday 5th - Psalm 29

Thursday 6th - Psalm 24

Friday 7th - Psalm 28

Saturday 8th - Psalm 43

Sunday 9th - Psalm 145

[This is a traditional way of ending a psalm]

**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.**

Short readings

[You could also use the Hosea plan above]

Thursday 30th (and any day) - Hebrews 9:24

Friday 31st - Hebrews 2:8-10

Saturday 1st - Romans 8:38-39

Sunday 2nd - John 7:37-39

Monday 3rd - Isaiah 40:28-end

Tuesday 4th - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Wednesday 5th - Joel 2:28-29

Thursday 6th - Luke 11:9-13

Friday 7th - 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Saturday 8th - 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Sunday 9th - John 20:21-22

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Response

You might want to use this time to offer

- *A testimony about how God has inspired you with his Spirit.*
- *Some reflections on the passage from Scripture.*
- *A reflective silence.*
- *A musical reflection.*

Prayers

[You can use these 'prompts' to guide your own prayers, especially if praying by yourself, or you can plan some other prayers. A form especially appropriate for Thy Kingdom Come is given in full below]

You could pray for:

- *The mission of St James, especially future church growth and the use of the building.*
- *All people to be drawn to Jesus.*
- *Our church family across Liverpool and around the world (especially thinking about the church plant and student congregation).*

The Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come, or another prayer, may be said:

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

[Use the version of the Lord's Prayer most familiar to you.]

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The Conclusion

[*We are sent out to seek the Spirit in our lives.*]

May the grace of the Holy Spirit enlighten our hearts and minds.

All

Amen.

Timetable of Events

Day	When	Where	What to pray for
Thurs 30 th	Tent Lift 7:30-9:30pm	Church	Growth and use of the building.
Mon 3 rd	Drop-in 12-2pm	Anglican Cathedral	Intercession for the world.
Wed 5 th	Prayer Breakfast 7-8am	Tog's House 11D Gambier Terrace	
Sun 9 th	Hosea Sermon Series 10:30am & 4pm	Church	Praying through the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer resources

We want to enable you to pray outside of the events we are putting on. You could dedicate more time in your Link/Purpose Group for prayer or gather a few of your friends to pray together. You could also use these during the 24 hours of prayer.

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Below are some ideas for you and your family to get you started for Thy Kingdom Come.

An hour of prayer for the UK:

All you need: a national newspaper, a pair of scissors, glue or tape, a window and/or a torch, a map or drawing of your nation.

What Is Your Nation Like? (15 Minutes)

- In every country there are things to thank God for and things to ask for His help with.
- Look through a recent newspaper and cut out words that describe good and bad things about your nation.
- Stick them to a piece of paper and look at the image they create. Thank God for the good things you read. Ask for His help with the bad.

Praying through the Newspaper (10 Minutes)

- Now look through the articles in the newspaper you've been using. Choose two things happening in or affecting your nation today.
- Stick the articles to a window and if there's daylight ask God to shine His wisdom on these situations. If it's night, use a torch to illuminate the stories to represent God's truth and wisdom illuminating our world.
- Ask Jesus to move and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done.

Praying for your Nation (15 Minutes)

- Think about the role that government plays in our lives today. Lay the map of your nation on the

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floor and point out the place where your government meets.

- Pray that Jesus' Kingdom would be the foundation of law and leadership in your nation.
- *The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live.* 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (Message version)
- Look around you at the different parts of your country. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your nation and speak out His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Ask God to give national leaders wisdom.

Pray for a friend and for an enemy (10 Minutes)

- Every nation has allies and enemies. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour (Matthew 22:38) and to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). This can be difficult when war or oppression is at the root of dislike.
- Choose a nation that is closely allied to your own, and then choose a nation that is historically or currently an adversary. Write their names in your prayer room and pray for God's kingdom and blessing to come in both.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray into their strengths and weaknesses.

The Lord's Prayer (10 Minutes)

- Pray The Lord's Prayer over your nation.

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- Take some time on each line, thinking particularly about your nation and its needs.
- Finish by praising God.

An hour of prayer for the UK:

All you need: a Bible, some paper, a pen, a bin or paper shredder.

Ask God to help you pray and read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15.

Approach (15 Minutes)

- Read Matthew 6:9: *Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
- Think of all the names for God you've heard. If you need inspiration why not read: Genesis 21:33, Exodus 3:14, Judges 6:24, Deuteronomy 7:9, Deuteronomy 10:17, Isaiah 5:16, Psalm 136:26, Isaiah 7:14 & John 8:58.
- Which name do you most use when speaking to God? *'What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us'* (A.W. Tozer).
- How often do you use the name 'Father'?
- Read Matthew 7:9-11: *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!*
- How does your identity as God's child affect the way you approach Him now?

Ask (15 Minutes)

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- Read Matthew 6:10-11: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*
- Write your name in the centre of a sheet of paper.
- Surround it with the people, situations and places that you want God to move in. Include anything that has been worrying you.
- Ask God to teach you to pray in His will for His kingdom in each of these situations.
- Make a paper aeroplane out of what you've written and as you throw it across the room thank God that He has your whole life and all your requests in His hands.

Reflect (15 Minutes)

- Read Matthew 6:12: *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
- Think back through your last 24 hours, the things you've done, the people you've met... Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight things you've done wrong.
- Next ask the Holy Spirit to show you times you should have acted and did not.
- Write everything that has come to mind on a piece of paper.
- As you say sorry, tear up the sheet of paper and throw it into the bin or feed it through the shredder.
- Thank God for forgiving you.
- Is there someone you need to forgive today? Ask God to show you who.

Praise (15 Minutes)

- Read Revelation 1:5-6: *To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us*

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to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- Stand and speak the names of God aloud adding after each one why this is true in your life (i.e. I know you're my Provider because you provided for the debts I needed to pay).
- Write a song or poem that expresses your love to the Father. If you need to, find inspiration from the book of Psalms and modern-day worship songs.

- End by praying St Patrick's prayer:

I arise today through the strength of heaven...

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me.

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me. Christ in every eye that sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me.

Possible outline for a Link/Purpose Group meeting:

Our Father in heaven.

- Sing 1 or 2 songs or hymns or read a selection of Bible verses.

Hallowed be your name.

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- Give thanks for who God is and what He gives us.
- Invite sharing of testimony to God's faithfulness.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Pray for God's love to direct all of our relationships and conversations where we live and work so that many will encounter Jesus.
- Ask for our homes and churches to become places where more people of all ages discover God's love and mercy.

Give us today our daily bread.

- Pray for those who are vulnerable in the parish/community to be reached by God's love.
- Ask for God's provision for all those working to bring in His kingdom in the parish/community.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

- Invite confession for the times when we have not reached out with love; when our hearts have been fearful.
- Ask for new boldness to talk about the difference Jesus has made in our lives.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- Pray for some of the needs of the parish/community.
- Ask God to show you five people to pray for so they may encounter Jesus.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

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- Pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His church this Pentecost season.
- Pray that many people will discover the truth about Jesus across our nation.
- Pray for God's blessing on each other, and on every church and every household in your parish/community: *May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)*

Prayer ideas for families:

Pray with stones:

- Think of five people (friends, family or neighbours) you want to come to know Jesus. Write their names on smooth stones using a Sharpie.
- Place the stones where you will see them every day – in a basket in the bathroom, in a bowl on the dining table or on a shelf by the front door.
- Take a stone and as you hold it in your hand, use this prayer: Lord Jesus, we pray that X may know how much you love him/her. May s/he come to love you and follow you. Amen.

Pray with scrabble letters:

- Use Scrabble letters to create a name puzzle of the people you want to pray for.
- As each name is formed, pray 'Lord Jesus, we pray that ... may come to know you. Amen.'

- When all the names have been used, jumble up the letters and start again.

Pray with Lego:

- On the side of a piece of Lego, write the name of someone you want to pray for.
- Each time you pray for that person, put another piece of Lego on top of the name to create a prayer tower.

Paper chain prayer:

- Cut out several strips of coloured paper.
- On each strip, write the name of someone to pray for.
- Either tape or staple the strips together to form a chain. Each time you pray for the person, put a tick beside the name.