

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.'

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NRSV

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## Introduction

The invitation to pray *Thy Kingdom Come* is given by Jesus as part of a pattern of prayer for each person who seeks to become His follower. It is a pattern of prayer that expresses the very heart of what it is to seek God's Kingdom. It is a pattern to be imitated in the midst of all the challenges we face day by day.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer initiative begun in 2016 within one part of the Church of Jesus Christ, and one which has now been embraced by churches in virtually every part of the world and within many different Christian traditions.

The call to join in prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday is a call to join with Christians across the world as we recall the experience of the first followers of Jesus. Those first followers had witnessed the Resurrection of our Lord but had not yet experienced the empowering of the Spirit.

We are those who, by the grace of God, bear witness to the Risen Christ and testify to the presence of the Spirit in our daily lives. In this season of prayer, Thy Kingdom Come invites us to open our hearts to God and to one another and to seek the renewal of the presence of the Spirit in our lives and in the life of the Church.

In 2024, the first Scottish edition of the Prayer Journal brings together voices from across the Church in this country and it is my privilege to commend it to you. May it be used for the renewal of God's people in this land.

Rev Dr John L McPake Church of Scotland

#### **Instructions:**

For each day's reflection, hover over the QR code to watch the video reflection, then take time to pause and pray in that way.

Or visit ThyKingdomCome.global/PrayerJournal2024

CHOOSE FIVE PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR AND WRITE THEIR NAMES HERE:

1 2 3

5

# Ascension Day

'It is important for all Christians because Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon the Apostles and bestow gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord...'

Who: Archbishop Leo Cushley

Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

Style of prayer:

Prayer in the Catholic tradition





#### Pause and Pray:

As you pray for your five people consider how you might also show God's love in action towards them.



#### DAY 2

# The God who loves

# 'I am humbled all these years later to know of God's love for me.'

Who: Colonel Sylvia Hinton

Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army

Style of prayer:

Extemporary prayer



Watch this video from Sylvia Hinton



#### Pause and Pray:

Use a scripture or the words of a hymn or worship song to guide you as you pray.



# The God who speaks

'May the ground be sacred about your feet and the world ablaze with the presence of God.'

Who: Reverend Mark Slaney

Chair of the Methodist Church in Scotland (Scotland District

and Shetland District)

#### Style of prayer:

Contemplative prayer



Watch this video from Reverend Mark Slaney



#### Pause and Pray:

You may wish to take off your shoes as you step aside. Wait and offer the names of your five people slowly to God. Finally offer your own name to Him.



# The God who creates

# 'God creates each one of us in His image and likeness.'

Who: Reverend Lyndsey Sanderson

Moderator of the Synod of Scotland, URC

#### Style of prayer:

Ignatian Spirituality





#### Pause and Pray:

Focus on your breathing. As you breathe acknowledge this as a gift from the God who creates. Thank God for His image and likeness in the five you are praying for.



#### DAY 5

# The God who gives

'As we repeat the prayer of the other, we are aware that Jesus is in the situation we have prayed for.'

Who: Matt and Margaret Driver
The Focolare movement

Style of prayer:

**Consentient Prayer** 





#### Pause and Pray:

As you pray for your five people, slowly repeat the prayer for each one, taking time before God.



# The God who walks with us

'I am walking with God in a variety of circumstances. Praying through the day wherever and whenever I might be.'

Who: Bishop Mark Strange

Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

#### Style of prayer:

Using a small daily office book of prayers, canticles, and readings.





#### Pause and Pray:

Start with a daily scripture offered as a prayer, pause, offer a favourite prayer that you have used before, offer your own prayers and end with the Lord's prayer.



## The God who listens

'Really it's all about waiting in the stillness – very little asking or doing! The guidance comes in the silent waiting...'

Who: Mary Woodward

Religious Society of Friends (Scotland)

Style of prayer:

Silent listening and offering





#### Pause and Pray:

Practise the art of silence and stillness with God; bringing to Him in silence the five you are praying for.



# The God who saves

# 'The scripture is God's word and so pray the scripture back to God.'

Who: Pastor Chris Gbenle
Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland. Redeemed Christian

Church of God.

#### Style of prayer:

Use of the scriptures



Watch this video from Pastor Chris Gbenle



#### Pause and Pray:

**Matthew 1:21** – Use this scripture with the promise that God will save His people from their sins. Pray for your five that they will encounter the saving God.



#### DAY 9

# The God who challenges & encourages

'Prayer, daily nourishment for my soul and a confidence like a child coming to a loving parent.'

Who: Reverend Martin Hodson

Director, Baptist Union of Scotland

Style of prayer:

Bringing what you can to God





#### Pause and Pray:

Just open your heart and speak what is in you for your five people.



# The God who empowers

'A quote from the Talmud, "Never pray in a room without a window".'

Who: The Very Reverend Sally Foster-Fulton

Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland (until

18th May 2024)

Style of prayer:

Continuous prayer out in the world



Watch this video from The Very Revd Sally Foster-Fulton



#### Pause and Pray:

Begin by a window. Look out. What do you see? What is it that you are grateful for? What is it that concerns you? Empowered by the Spirit and by each other, continue the conversation with God.



## Pentecost

'If you are in a rowboat, you are facing towards where you have come from and with your back towards where you are heading. Prayer is trusting the way in which God is taking you.'

Who: The Rt Reverend Dr Shaw Paterson Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland (as from 18th May 2024)

#### Style of prayer:

Being away from the crowds and discovering what type of prayer works for you.



Watch this video from The Rt Revd Dr Shaw Paterson



#### Pause and Pray:

Pause. Give time to let God interrupt the busyness. Pray for your five people, that they too might give space to let God in.



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