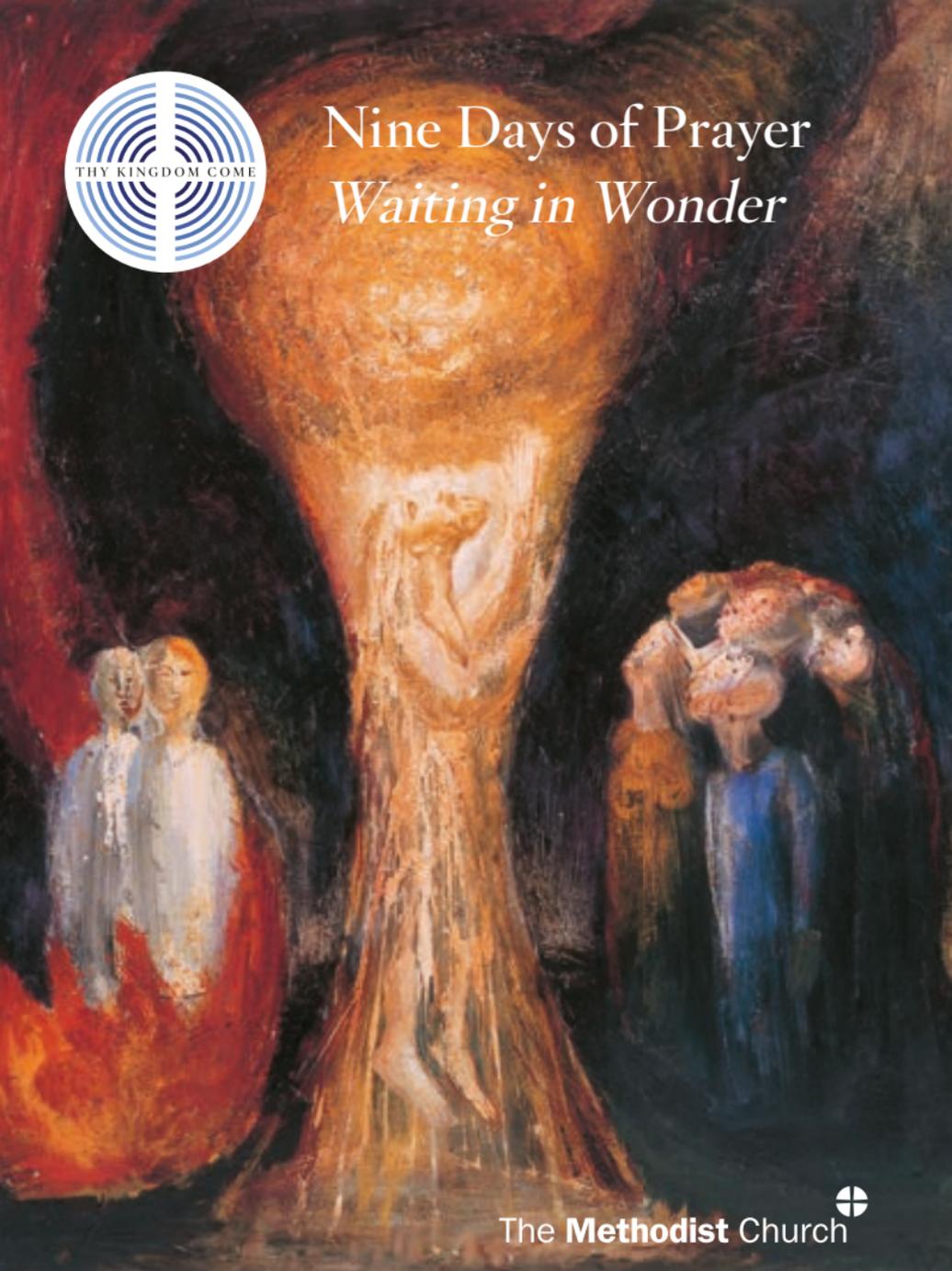




Nine Days of Prayer

Waiting in Wonder



The **Methodist** Church 



Waiting in Wonder

'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 1: 6-9, from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV)

For those who followed Jesus, the time between the festivals of Ascension and Pentecost was a time of waiting – a time to look back to when, through Jesus, God had been most real to them. It was also a time of wondering – what would happen next? When would the promised Holy Spirit be fully known to them and equip them to share the good news of God's love to the very ends of the earth? In this book of prayers, we look back with those who followed Jesus, to events of his life that changed their lives and we look forward with them to a time when the Holy Spirit will be with us in a new way.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global initiative, in which Christians are called to pray for the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. We are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

You can use these daily prayers, readings and reflections at any time of the year.

- **To find out more about Thy Kingdom Come, visit www.thykingdomcome.global or www.methodist.org.uk/thykingdomcome**

Using this book

Choose a time that works for you – each of these reflections lasts between five and ten minutes, though you might choose to pause for longer.

Choose a place that works for you – some people can pray on the bus, whilst walking the dog or in the midst of a busy day at work. Others need quiet and calm, a special place to focus; perhaps at home with a candle lit or in a church that is open for prayer.

Reflect on the image for the day. What do you see in the image? Does it comfort you or disturb you? Are you challenged or intrigued?

Reflect on the Bible passage. What is happening in the text? Who are the people involved, how are they impacted by the events happening to them and around them? Can you see God at work in the text?

Wonder at God's grace and love and wonder how you might respond in your own life.

Listen for a while and ask God's Spirit for a word or image, a gift of insight that leads to greater compassion, deeper wisdom, a sense of God's call on your life.

Respond in your own prayers and gather your thoughts together in the prayer offered for each day.

The titles of the art featured in this booklet can be found on the back cover.



Day 1

Mary Wonders

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Mary

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

Luke 1.26-35

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Mary respond to the visitor?
How does God act within the story? Are you left in wonder or left
wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
you sent your messenger to Mary with news that was perplexing
yet full of promise.
Help me to be open to your message of grace and promise today.
Help me to be a messenger of your love to others,
and to be a compassionate agent of change in your world.
Amen.

Day 2

The Holy Family Seek Refuge

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of the Holy Family resting on the way to Egypt

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

Matthew 2.13-18



Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Joseph respond to his dream? How does God act within the story? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God

your own Son was a vulnerable refugee, seeking asylum from cruel powers. Children, women and men continue to see refuge in our world today. Help me to pay attention to those in need and respond with a generous spirit, that I might reflect your love for all people.

Amen.





Day 3

The Crowd are Waited Upon

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of the Feeding of the Five Thousand

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

John 6.1-15

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Jesus respond to the needs of the crowd? How does God act within the story? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
all that we have comes from your generous love.
Grant us your Spirit of compassion, that we will respond to the needs of those who are hungry. Help us to share with others and to be willing to receive the gifts others wish to share with us.
Amen.



Day 4

*The Disciples wonder,
“What sort of man is this?”*

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of the Storm on the Lake

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

Matthew 8.23-27

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Jesus respond to the Disciples' fears? How does God act within the story? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
you are Creator of all, the heavens and the earth, the land and the sea. When we feel frightened and at a loss as to where to turn, remind us that you love us. Send your Holy Spirit of peace and joy and help us to share the story of your love with others.
Amen.



Day 5

The Crowds Wait in Expectation

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Christ entering Jerusalem

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

John 12.12-16

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does the crowd respond to rumours that Jesus is coming to the city? How do the disciples act within the story? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
you came into the world, not to dominate by power, but to show the true strength of love. May your Spirit of peace be active in the world today and may we who love you learn humility as we work to transform your world.
Amen.



Day 6

Jesus washes the feet of his friends

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Jesus washing Peter's feet

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

John 13.1-17

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Peter respond to Jesus? What do you learn about Jesus in the passage? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
your Son, Jesus Christ, showed his friends that all are valued
and should be treated with honour.
Send your Spirit of service into my heart and into the church,
that we might show through our actions, the quality of your love
in action.
Amen.



Day 7

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Jesus praying in the Garden

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

Matthew 26.36-46

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How do the disciples act? What do you learn about Jesus in the passage? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
your Son, Jesus Christ, wept and prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. We pray for those who stay awake in the night for fear of what is to come. Send your Spirit of care, that we might be alert to your call on our lives to comfort those who weep and cannot find peace.
Amen.



Rudi Manó

Day 8

Mary Magdalene wonders

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Jesus and Mary by the Garden Tomb

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

John 20.11-18

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? How does Mary recognise Jesus? How does God act within the passage? Are you left in wonder or left wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God
through your Son, Jesus Christ, you released us from despair
and raised us up to a new life of joy and hopeful expectation.
May your Spirit of life bubble up in us, that we might bring hope
and joy to your world.
Amen.



Drawing of After Piece - The Suffering Emmanas' chapel of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University

Day 9

Jesus is revealed to his friends

Pray

Come Holy Spirit,
Help me to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen

Reflect on the image of Jesus and his friends at supper

What do you notice? What disturbs you or comforts you?
What surprises you? What intrigues you?

Read

Luke 24.13-35

Reflect on the Bible passage

What do you notice? At what point do Jesus' friends recognise him?
How does God act within the passage? Are you left in wonder or left
wondering by what you have read?

Listen

Listen for a while to what God may be saying to you today.

Pray

Loving God,
Jesus asked his friends to remember him by breaking bread and sharing
wine. When we share Christ's body and blood today, we recall his act of
self-giving love and we become one body, with Jesus and with each other.
Send your Spirit of unity upon your church, that we might show the world
the joy of being your disciples.
Amen.



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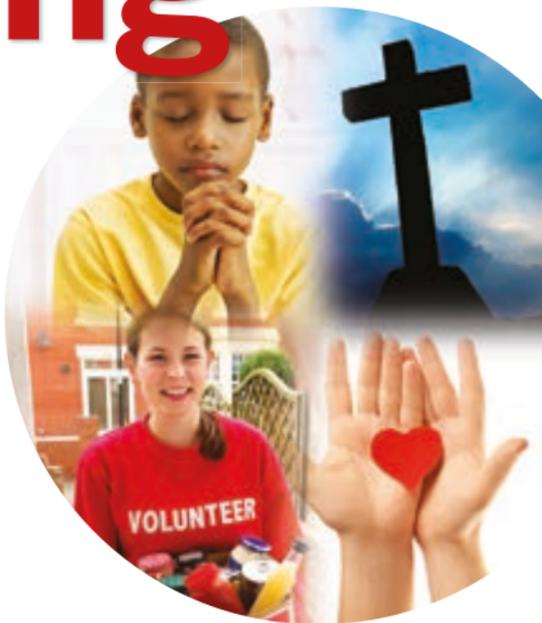
Methodist Modern
Art Collection

www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Our Calling

The **calling** of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of **God's love in Christ** and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through



Worship



Learning and Caring



Service



Evangelism

The **Methodist Church** 

www.methodist.org.uk

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Front Cover: *The Ascension* by Peter Rogers
Page 4: *Dalit Madonna* by Jyoti Sahi
Page 6 & 7: *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Nicholas Mynheer
Page 8: *Feeding of the 5,000* by John Reilly
Page 10: *Storm Over the Lake* by Eularia Clarke
Page 12: *Christ Enters Jerusalem* by Sadao Watanabe
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Page 16: *Fool of God (Christ in the Garden)* by Mark Cazalet
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Page 20: *The Supper at Emmaus* by Ceri Richards

Reflections and prayers by The Revd Michaela A Youngson,
President-Designate of the 2018/2019 Methodist Conference
and one of the London District Chairs.

More resources to support church, family and individual prayer are available
from www.thykingdomcome.global

www.methodist.org.uk

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