

Monday 25th May 2020

Thy Kingdom Come

(Ascension - Pentecost)

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time for the coming of the Holy Spirit. *Thy Kingdom Come*, a global prayer movement, picks up on that. Between the 21st May and 31st May we pray, throughout the world, that the Spirit will inspire us and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family, friends, communities and networks. When we do that, we are following the example of the disciples in Acts 1 v14, who, in a ground-breaking manner, united in constant heartfelt prayer.

When we accept Jesus as Lord great change takes place in our lives as we accept Him as Saviour, Master and Friend. *'If anyone is in Christ he is in a new creation,'* writes St. Paul (2 Corinthians 5 v17). We have the capacity to demonstrate God's transforming love and to bring change to the lives of those whose needs are the greatest.

Let us pray, today, for those who are in need of care across our world.

Gracious and most loving God, we thank you for the love and grace shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for the fellowship of other believers in our churches, whatever their denomination. We thank you for our families, friends, and our communities. Lord, never before will many of us have had our precious families and friends so much on our minds as in recent months. Separation, through social isolation, has brought many of us together and for that we give you thanks. If we have taken each other for granted in the past, let us never do that in the future.

We come to you at this difficult time to pray for the poor, the elderly, the sick and those who are lonely. None of those people should suffer as a consequence of the pandemic. We pray for the families, friends and colleagues left grieving for those who have died in recent weeks. Surround them with Your love and ours. We pray for those working in the caring professions and the services who have been looking after our loved ones with courage.

We pray that we can show others, through our own way of living and being, how rich our lives are when we walk in Your way and take the path that You would have us take. Always, give us the courage, Lord, to express our love for You openly and without hesitation. Let us rejoice. Let us show our love for you.

Lord, we pray that You may be invited into the hearts and souls of those who have not sought you out, those who may have spurned You. We pray that they open their eyes so that they may see the wealth of goodness that loving You will bring to them.

Heavenly Father, across the world, there has never been a better time for us to care for each other. Let us always act with kindness and thoughtfulness towards others. Let us be willing to remove barriers in communities, between communities, in countries and between countries. We pray that we work for the common good of all in Your name, the name of Jesus our Saviour.

Amen