

## Thy Kingdom Come Ascension to Pentecost 2017 Praying for our Communities



Please join with others across the region and pray each day for your community.

Where possible, pray specifically for those in your own community – pray by name for those you know, those in your congregation and family who work in the occupations highlighted. Name the schools, hospitals, ambulance station etc. located closest to you.

Try to walk in the shoes of those you pray for. What might life be like for them? How might we become a more understanding and welcoming a church family as we listen with Godly ears to the cries of the world around us?

Date	Prayer Focus	Suggestions for prayer
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day	Those in positions of authority and power.	Local councillors, mayors. Authority can be stressful. Power can bring vulnerability.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Teachers and all who work in schools.	For many this is the last school day before the half term break. Pray for time and grace to notice the needs of every child today; and for rest in the week ahead.
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Families.	Holidays can be a time of joy and refreshment. The change in routine can also bring frictions, logistical challenges and pressures. Pray that love will abound this half term.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Church Communities.	This week is an opportunity for us to look outwards into our communities. Pray for seeing eyes, listening ears, loving words.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Service workers for whom this is not a day off work.	Hospitals, emergency services, shop-workers, roadside recovery, transport workers, caterers, those on-call today.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Unemployed.	In a society where identity often comes through what we 'do' pray for those who are not in work. May they know that God loves them.
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Those in caring roles.	Health and social carers, family carers, those offering domestic support
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Local businesses.	Name those you can. Some have shop fronts, many now work from home. What might be the challenges for each?
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Those who struggle to be accepted in this community.	Pray about the causes of division, loneliness, exclusion
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Your immediate neighbours in each direction.	Who lives near to you? You may not know the names of every person, but you can pray for the households. Could you take a slow walk and hold each home in prayer as you pass?
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June The Day of Pentecost	Reflect back over the week. Pause to consider the impact the Holy Spirit can have on all the lives of each person	How can we speak the language of love to those in our community in a way each can understand?

## Prayers and suggested hymns for personal or communal prayer times.

We pray for our community. It is also a blessing and encouragement to pray *in* community.

- Can your church be open for prayer this week?
- Could you agree to pray at the same time of day even if you cannot meet together?
- Could you put up a prayer board, prayer station or prayer table where any who come in and pray can add their prayers.
- Consider including a map of the local area and leaving small post-it notes or stickers which people can add when they have prayed for that street, business or institution.
- Is there an outside prayer space you can create?

Please take appropriate steps to respect confidentiality – e.g. you might like to suggest people add initials rather than full names when praying for someone.

“Community”. Lord.  
Community implies belonging.  
Forgive us for excluding those  
who somehow don't fit.  
Community implies location,  
but some have nowhere to call home.  
Community suggests fellowship,  
yet some feel alone, friendless.  
Forgive us for not seeing, sheltering and embracing  
those outside.  
Community can bring warmth, protection, care.  
Help us to share love, hope and peace  
with those around us  
Help us to speak with your compassion;  
to walk in your footsteps; and  
act with your passion.  
Help me to take my first steps on this journey today,  
Lord. I know you walk with me.  
Amen

StF. 251, 477, 413, 239

Father, Son and Spirit.  
Your Trinity shows us what it is to be Community.  
Distinctive, individual and yet wholly united.  
Help us to partner well in your service with those  
who differ from us so that your will may be done, and  
your Kingdom Come, here in this place.  
Transform us for your glory.  
Amen.

StF. 417, 392, 242



Hymns from Singing the Faith (StF)

The suggested hymns, and others,  
might be sung or spoken in prayer.

Spirit of life, come to me this day.  
Wind, fire and love fill me, I pray.  
Empowered by you, Spirit, I go  
Into the world, your love to show. Amen

With the rising of the sun – I will praise your name  
At the baking of the bread – I will praise...  
In the opening of my door – I will praise ...  
In the meeting with a friend – I will praise...  
In the learning and exams – I will praise...  
In the passing on the street – I will praise..  
In the spending at the till – I will praise your name  
In the drudgery and delight – I will praise you still.  
In the breaking of the bread - I will remember.  
As I lay down to sleep – I thank you for this day.  
You are with me in all things. I praise you Lord.

StF. 462, 827, 838

Saviour Jesus,  
This is my community.  
A place of love, and a place of conflict.  
A place of joy, and home to tears.  
There is busyness, and there is stillness.  
There is harm, and there is healing.  
Each person made in the image of God.  
How I long for your name to be sung in these  
streets. Help me to sing of your love today.  
Risen Lord Jesus, rise once more this day.  
Amen

StF. 249, 257, 242

