



FIVE WAYS TO PRAY DURING THY KINGDOM COME

From Ascension to Pentecost, we encourage you to live out the commitment in [A Methodist Way of Life](#) “to pray daily” by pledging to pray for your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. The good news about evangelism is that it’s God’s work – and we are invited to participate in word, deed and prayer. These three are equal partners, and so as well as speaking and sharing the good news, we must be praying for God to act in people’s lives and stir their hearts. We want to resource you to pray for the people you know, and to encourage others in your church and Christian community to pray as well. We particularly encourage you to involve the young people in your church. There are many different ways to pray and these are just a few suggestions. Most of them can be done individually or in the community with minimum advance preparation.

No prayer is ever wasted. Ignatius of Loyola says that whenever you pray, you should start by reflecting that God is gazing on you right at this moment with love. All our prayers are heard by God, even if they’re not always answered in the ways we expect or the timeline we want. The more we pray, the more we’re in tune with what God is doing and saying.

You may want to pray for people who are a million miles from wanting to know Jesus, or people who are already seeking him. God is already working in their lives, whether they acknowledge it or not. We encourage you to take part in Thy Kingdom Come in whatever way you feel God lays on your heart.

Be prepared that you might be changed as well! When we spend time in God’s presence, things happen that we may not expect. Embrace God’s presence, and pray about anything God might say to you during this time.



PRAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY

While some people enjoy a dedicated time of prayer at the same time every day, others may prefer shorter, more frequent prayers. Set five phone or calendar reminders, one for each person you’re praying for, put sticky notes with people’s names on different objects around the house to remind you of each person, or fill a bowl with pebbles and take one out every time you pray.



TAKE TIME OUT IN PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

The Holy Spirit is already working in people’s lives. Rather than asking God for things, you may wish to simply reflect prayerfully on the people you are praying for and lift them to God. You could use a [daily examen](#) (a simple, prayerful review at the end of your day) to give thanks for the people you’re praying for, recite people’s names as you walk down the street or wash your hands, and take time to listen to what God says to you about each person.



TELL PEOPLE YOU'RE PRAYING FOR THEM

It's encouraging to know someone is praying for you, so why not contact the people on your heart and let them know you're praying for them? Although the Thy Kingdom Come movement is about people coming to know Jesus, we know God is already working in people's hearts, and cares about everything going on in their lives. You could ask them what desires are in their heart or send them a greeting card with an encouraging Bible verse (such as John 6:37, 1 Peter 5:7 or Psalm 23:1). Even if you're not meeting in your church building, you could use your outside space or bulletin board to let your community know you're praying for them, as well as your church website and social media.



PRAY TOGETHER

Praying with others can be a powerful experience. You could pray with others in your church every day during Thy Kingdom Come by phone, Zoom, WhatsApp chat or in person (socially distanced). Thy Kingdom Come finishes the day before Aldersgate Day, which commemorates the day when John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed". Why not pray together during your service that the people you've been praying for during Thy Kingdom Come will have their hearts warmed? Dependent on Covid guidelines, you could collect prayer stones for a cairn in the church car park, use street chalk to write or draw your prayers, or go on a socially distanced prayer walk.



BE ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE

Prayer doesn't have to be about words! Art, jewellery, dance, music – it can all be a form of prayer. Create art that reminds you of the people you're praying for, or a bracelet with a knot or bead to represent each person. Think about how you could share artistic prayers (while protecting the identities of the people being prayed for), such as displaying them in your church, sharing them on social media (with permission, of course) or collaborating on a shared digital creative platform like [Jamboard](#).

For more examples of creative prayer ideas you could use this year (digital and in person), visit:

methodist.org.uk/thykingdomcome

methodist.org.uk/yearofprayer-individual

methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/creative-prayer

24-7prayer.com/prayer

northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office

For more information about Thy Kingdom Come, visit

thykingdomcome.global

<https://twitter.com/evangelismMC>

<https://www.facebook.com/EvangelismGrowth/>

<https://www.instagram.com/evangelismgrowth/>

