

June Prayers

Come, Holy Spirit

Ever living and ever loving God,

We praise you for your loving presence with us.

Come, Holy Spirit, take and transform our societies –that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love; that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope.

Come, Holy Spirit, take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal -that communication can be open; that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate; that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill your church, that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you -that our prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours; that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives with your presence, so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope, will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,

To the glory of your name.

Risen and Ascended

We worship you as the Lord, risen and Ascended.

As we pray for our broken world, we want to ask you when you will fix everything, when your kingdom will come, when justice will be restored, and you tell us to wait; to wait upon you, to attend to you.

But people are hungry now, thirsty now, people lose their lives in our world now, and you tell us to wait. But for how long? Lord Jesus, risen and ascended, show us where you are now, to join you in what you are doing now. Open our eyes again, to attend to you now, and join you in what you are already doing.

But people suffer from war now. And we're pretty sure, we know what needs to be done, what justice must look like, and still you tell us to wait; to attend to you, to see what you are doing – to catch Your Spirit. Help us to know what you are doing, and to join you.

And people are suffering environmental breakdown now. People's lives and livelihoods are being wrecked now. Western greed for biofuel drives poor families from their lands now – and we want you to act, and act now. And you tell us to wait. To wait upon you, and to see who you are and what you are doing, and the miracles you are working. Help us not to fix the world, but to wait on you and so see the world transformed.

Lord, we long for justice, for you to act. By your Spirit, show us what you are doing already, ahead of us, despite us, for us. Forgive our arrogance and help us to listen.

Fill us with your Spirit, Risen and Ascended one, restore your kingdom in our lives, that we might know you more, trust you more, serve you more fully. Fill us with your Spirit that we might wait for you, and in so doing, see you at work, and find ourselves drawn in, to the glory of your name, Risen and Ascended Lord. Amen.

Environmental Justice

Creator God, we worship you as the One who creates and re-creates his people.

In a world that is slowly waking up to its duty of care for the creation, slowly becoming aware of the damage we inflict upon the planet, beginning to fear for the future of the earth, let the disturbing truth become ever more clear, in order that a deeper hope may become ever more real.

In a world where talking about our environment fails to lead to action, where bold pledges are shallow publicity stunts, where urgent steps are postponed because of their political cost, let our lives reflect our claims in order that our promises ring true.

In a world where guilt or indifference or despair prevent us from being stewards of the creation and worthy heralds of the Gospel, let us worship our Creator in Spirit and in truth, in order that our lives and the life of the world may be remade.

Lord God of heaven and earth, who was creating and is creating, make our lives into signs of hope that point to you, the Creator and Redeemer of the world.

Isaiah 55

Holy God, your ways are higher than our ways, your thoughts higher than our thoughts. And yet you invite us to call you 'Father', and have called us your children.

So help your people to be holy as you are holy, to be channels of your Holy Spirit, to be shaped by a deep love for you.

Free us from the idolatries that promise satisfaction but that quietly suppress our freedom.
We pray for all those caught up in worshipping that which is not God.
For those who assume that material wealth is necessary for their happiness,
For those ensnared by sexual addiction and pornography,
For those whose god is their nation, for whom foreigners are a threat.

We pray for all those who suffer when idols are worshipped by those with power.
For those who go hungry because of the greed of powerful nations.
For those who are exploited for the sex trade.
For those who have lost livelihood, and home, and families because of war.

Holy God, we know that you are not distant from the suffering of this world – so bring freedom and justice and peace.
Fill your people with your Holy Spirit that we might have the discernment to recognise our idols, the strength to resist them, and the courage to proclaim a better way to live.
Fill us with compassion for all the victims of idolatry, that we might speak and act on their behalf.
Make your church a holy place that offers to the world life in all its fullness For the sake of your holy name.