

CONCLUDING MUSIC

We seek your Kingdom

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere,
We long for heaven's demonstration here.
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see,
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Before all things, in him were all things made,
Inspiring culture, media, and trade.
May all our work serve your economy,
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere,
With us be present in our public square.
Fill all who lead with your integrity,
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged,
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page.
Make us again what we were made to be,
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Faithful to govern ever may we be,
Selfless in service, loving constantly.
In everything may your authority,
Transform, revive, and heal society.

*Sung by: Noel Robinson, Lou Fellingham,
Andy Flannagan, Donna Akodu*

*Tune: Eventide (Abide with me) by William
Henry Monk (Public Domain)*

*Lyrics: Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan,
Graham Hunter © 2016 Downwardly Mobile
Music, Nu Image Music, CCLI No. 7078309*

We invite you to the next Reflections on
Sunday 6 July at 6pm.

Please feel free to leave when you feel
ready – or stay to the end.
Please take this sheet home with you.

If you would like to be part of the Reflections
team – please let one of us know.

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Reflections

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*

THY KINGDOM COME

**Sunday 1 June 2025
6pm**

**The Parish Church of
St Andrew and St Cuthman,
Steyping**

REFLECTIONS

Sunday 1 June

THY KINGDOM COME

Note on this evening's music: 'Thy Kingdom Come' is the title given to the period between Ascension and Pentecost, when we are encouraged to pray for others. Ascension is reflected in our opening psalm, which is said to foretell Jesus' ascension in its call to open the gates for the King of Glory to enter. The song leading into silence was written for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' 11 days of prayer. A familiar Pentecost hymn leads us out of the silence, and we end with another song written for 'Thy Kingdom Come', sung to a familiar hymn tune.

MUSIC ON ENTRANCE

Psalm 24 – The Earth is the Lord's

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas and
established it on the waters.
Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a pure
heart, who does not trust in an idol or
swear by a false god.
They will receive blessing from the Lord and
vindication from God their Saviour.
Such is the generation of those who seek
him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the
King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong
and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors, that the
King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord
Almighty— he is the King of glory.

*From Breath & Clay, arranged by Michael
Neale, Jonathan Walker for Prestonwood
Choir and Orchestra © 2019 Prestonwood
Worship*

to praise you as the King of Kings and
Lord of Lords.

Amen

Jesus, we bring to you the places in the
world where people are at war; where
innocent people are being hurt.

All: Receive our prayer.

Jesus, we bring to you those places that
are wealthy. Help us, with them, to
share what we have with the poor.

All: Receive our prayer.

Jesus, we bring to you those who are
sick and ask that you make them well:
those who care for the sick and give
them strength.

All: Receive our prayer.

Jesus, we bring to you all in our schools,
colleges, places of work, and our
homes. Make them places of safety, joy,
and hope.

All: Receive our prayer.

Jesus, we bring to you ourselves Thank
you that you know us by name and love
us. Keep us safe, keep us close to you
now, and always.

**All: Receive our prayer,
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

The angels keep their ancient places—
Turn but a stone and start a wing!
'Tis ye, 'tis your estrangèd faces,
That miss the many-splendoured thing.

But (when so sad thou canst not sadder)
Cry—and upon thy so sore loss
Shall shine the traffic of Jacob's ladder
Pitched betwixt Heaven and Charing Cross.

Yea, in the night, my Soul, my daughter,
Cry—clinging to Heaven by the hems;
And lo, Christ walking on the water,
Not of Gennesareth, but Thames!

by Francis Thompson (1859-1907)

BIBLE MEDITATIONS

Daniel 2:44 - And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever.

John 1:12 - But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 - By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Joshua 1:8 - This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful.

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day and for this time together. We give you thanks for sending Jesus to show us the way to your Kingdom. Help us now

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

READING - POEM

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth.
Can we imagine what we're asking for?
When all we know and all we think we're worth,
As vanity might vanish, disappear,
Fading before the splendours you reveal:
The beggars crowned with glory, all the meek,
Exalted even as the mighty fall,
And everywhere the triumph of the weak.

And we, who have been first, will be the last
And queue for mercy like the refugees,
Whom only moments earlier we passed,
By on the other side. For now the seas
That separated are no more. The sun
Is risen like justice, and his will is done.

*from Seven Sonnets on the Lord's Prayer,
by Malcolm Guite*

BIBLE READING

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen.

Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables? He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who

have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that “seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.” With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: “You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.”

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

Matthew 13:1-17

MUSIC INTO SILENCE

Your Kingdom Come

Made in perfect love,
Innocent we walked as friends of God
Still we turned away,
Traded freedom for a life enslaved

Helpless we were lost,
Heaven sent the rescue plan of God.
Through the love of Christ,
We are found and born into new life

*We are watching, we are waiting;
We are hoping, we are praying;
We're believing, let your kingdom come.*

*Father in heaven, your name is holy;
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.*

*God of salvation, unfold your story;
Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.*

Amen.

King of endless love,
Here on earth just as in heaven above,
Let your will be done;
Wake our hearts and let your kingdom come.

Performed by Pete James

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PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION

(10-12 minutes)

Please feel free to move around the church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.

MUSIC OUT OF SILENCE

Come down O love Divine

Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illumining.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Sung by Fernando Ortega

Words: Bianco da Siena (c14) trans RF Littledale

*Tune 'Down Ampney' Ralph Vaughan Williams,
(1872-1958) Public Domain*

READING - POEM

In No Strange Land

O world invisible, we view thee,
O world intangible, we touch thee,
O world unknowable, we know thee,
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

Does the fish soar to find the ocean,
The eagle plunge to find the air—
That we ask of the stars in motion
If they have rumour of thee there?

Not where the wheeling systems darken,
And our benumbed conceiving soars!—
The drift of pinions, would we hearken,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.