

Thought for the Day – Monday 10th May 2021

Revd Kit Gunasekera

Thy Kingdom Come (13th-23rd May 2021)

⁴ On one occasion, while Jesus was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit...⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:4-5, 8

This Thursday, 13th May, is Ascension Day, when we mark the end of the 40 days from Easter Sunday, when Jesus revealed himself to His disciples and others that He had risen from the dead. Jesus then ascends into heaven, and tells His disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will empower them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. That coming of the Holy Spirit, we mark, 10 days later, on the day of Pentecost.

Thy Kingdom Come, is a prayer movement, which encourages us to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the mission of the church, and this year, it takes place from 13-23 May 2021.

Simply put, Thy Kingdom Come encourages Christians worldwide to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith.

The hope is that this year those in Southwark will focus their prayer in a further three ways:

1. locally, by praying for those who have not been able to access the community of faith during the Coronavirus pandemic;
2. nationally, by praying for a reappraisal of the country's vision and values to serve the needs of everyone in society;
3. internationally, by praying for the persecuted church.

Resources for helping us prayer will appear on our website in the next day or two.

As well as a special prayer for the day via Zoom at 1pm this Thursday, there will be a Deanery Eucharist at St Leonard's in Streatham at 7.30pm. This time of waiting in prayer on the Holy Spirit is also a time of unity.

There is also a special prayer, which was sent out to our Deanery, which I would like to commend to you:

Come Holy Spirit,

Fill the hearts of your people

in churches, homes, places at work, schools, funeral homes, care homes, prisons,

foodbanks and in all other places across our Deanery.

Kindle in us the fire of your love,

that we may share the life and love of your Son with those we know.

Amen

This year, we are aware more than ever, how dependent we are on the leading, energising and guiding of the Holy Spirit, individually and as a church, as we seek to share the love of God in a very complex and uncertain world. However, we are assured that we are not left to it on our own to struggle, and so I commend these 10 days of waiting and prayer in hope.

A video, produced in 2019, introducing how TKC came about and its global spread, can be watched [here](#).