

## 6 Thy kingdom come

We reflect on our longing for God's reign in our world

### Singing

#### Keeping Stillness

Think of your life and your personality as territory. If there were flags to proclaim sovereignty over this territory, which sections would be under the banner of Christ, and which would have other flags, such as 'strictly private and personal', or 'unavailable for development'?

**Leader** There are places in our thinking and our loving  
where we have denied access to your reign in us.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

There are sections of our behaviour  
where we turn your banners to face the other way.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

There are pockets of resistance to your prompting,  
and determination to maintain our control.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader** Father, give us the grace  
to realign our longings with your longings,  
our wills with your will,  
and our vision of the kingdom with yours.  
**All** Father, let your kingdom come.  
Reign in the whole of us  
and in the whole of our life.  
Amen.

**Leader** In this reading from the prophet Habakkuk, hear the  
vision of complete saturation of the world in the glory  
of God.

**Reading** Habakkuk 2:2-5

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Leader** Now hear how the full authority of Jesus' reign over the powers  
of darkness is recognised by the Roman centurion, using the  
experience of his own temporal authority.

**Reading** Matthew 8:5-13

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Leader**

So we pray for those in positions of authority and responsibility, particularly wherever difficult and painful decisions have to be made.  
Our Father in heaven:  
**let your kingdom come.**

We pray for those elected to represent others in places of government;  
that your values and the example and life of Jesus may guide their thinking and action.  
Our Father in heaven:  
let your kingdom come.  
We pray for all monarchs born into the responsibility of leadership.  
Give them the grace and courage to carry out their work in humility and integrity.  
Our Father in heaven:  
**let your kingdom come.**

Recognising the inherent dangers of corruption wherever there is power,  
we pray for all those with power and influence internationally, nationally, locally and in each home.  
May they be constantly reminded of vigilance;  
may they stand firm against temptation to greed and self-indulgence, pride, and insulation from those they serve.  
Our Father in heaven:  
**let your kingdom come.**

We pray for all who suffer under repressive and corrupt regimes.  
We stand alongside the oppressed in their despair and silenced protest,  
and pray for your justice and liberation from all that crushes, marginalises and destroys.  
Our Father in heaven:  
**let your kingdom come.**

We thank you, heavenly Father,  
for every person who has your kingdom reigning in their heart;  
for all in whom your love and goodness is quietly growing;  
for all whose lives you are currently transforming;  
for all in whom the power of evil is being trampled underfoot.  
**Bless and water this growth of your kingdom.**

**Amen.**

## **Singing**

### **Keeping Stillness**

Think over the situations and relationships you will be part of when you leave here, and during the coming week. Welcome God to reign in those places so that, when you come to them, the ground will already be God's territory.

**All** 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.  
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.

**Leader** 'Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.'  
**All** Amen. Let God's kingdom come.