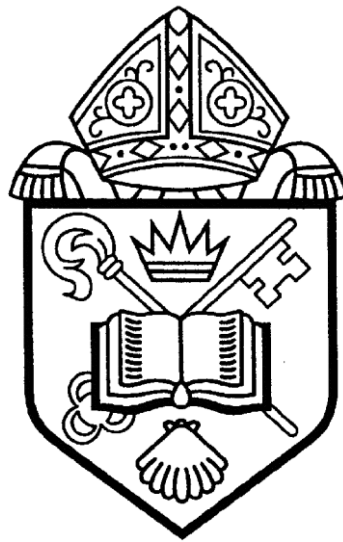


香港聖公會
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui



「願祢的國降臨」全球宣教祈禱運動 2017
‘Thy Kingdom Come’ Global Prayer Movement 2017

升天日至聖靈降臨日
2017年5月25日至6月4日
Ascension Day to Pentecost
25th May 2017 to 4th June 2017

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
‘Thy Kingdom Come’
Global Prayer Movement 2017

Introduction : ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is a global prayer movement launched by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016. It aims at encouraging Christians around the world to pray together as witnesses of the Lord and for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Parishioners are encouraged to pray at least ten minutes each day especially for the mission ministry during the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost (totally eleven days).

Let us pray together to God for strength, for His lead and support to all missionary works, and for intensifying passion of parishioners in them.

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Day 1 (Ascension Day; Thursday)

Readings	
●	Hebrews 9:24 (Ascending to heaven for us)
	For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
●	Matthew 28:16-20 (The Commissions to the Disciples before Ascension)
	¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
1.	“All authority in heaven and on earth” has been given to the Risen Lord, He is the Commander of the Kingdom of God! What does it mean to those whom He sent ?
2.	Before His Ascension, what tasks have we been commissioned by the Risen Lord? What promise did he make?

Prayer	
	O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us. Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

Day 2 (Friday after Ascension Day)

Readings	
●	Hebrews 2:8b-10 (Jesus suffered to bring many children to glory)
	<p>^{8b} As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.</p> <p>¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.</p>
●	John 3:13-17 (Those who believe in the only Son have eternal life)
	<p>¹³ Jesus said, ‘No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.</p> <p>¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.</p>
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In this pro-modern era, many people don’t believe in absolute truth. Today’s Bible passages claim that Jesus, the Son of Man, was the only Son of God descended from heaven. How important is this understanding for us when we are sent to preach the Good News?2. In the Old Testaments, Israelites was bitten by poisonous snakes after they sinned against God. God commanded Moses to make a replica of a poisonous snake and place it on an elevated place, so whoever turned to God was saved. How is this story served as a sign for the salvation to be brought by Jesus? What are the similarities of the two stories?	

Prayer	
	<p>Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [Name & Name] the life of your Son and your love for all. Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name’s sake. Amen.</p>

Day 3 (Saturday after Ascension Day)

Readings	
●	Romans 8:38-39 (Nothing can separate us from the love of God)
	³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.
●	Mark 3:13-19 (Appoint apostles to proclaim the good news)
	¹³ He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
1. Jesus called the 12 disciples as they were, having different social backgrounds, gifts and talents, etc. However, what common mission did he give them?	
2. How did Jesus empower His disciples? What kind of empowerment does Jesus give us today for spreading the Gospel?	

Prayer	
	Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Day 4 (Sunday after Ascension Day)

Readings	
●	John 6:32-35 (The Lord is the bread of life)
	<p>³²Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’</p> <p>³⁴They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ ³⁵ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’</p>
●	John 7:37-39 (The Lord is the rivers of Living Water)
	<p>³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” ’ ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.</p>
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Though people nowadays are richer in knowledge and material substance, but these cannot satisfy the hunger and thirst of our soul! What does it mean to us when Jesus said He is the Bread of Life and Living Water?2. What are the differences between Christians and non-Christians? How can we share the treasures of our faith with others, by using simple language and metaphors?	

Prayer	
	<p>Almighty God who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.</p>

Day 5 (Monday)

Readings	
●	Isaiah 40:28-31 (Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength)
	²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
●	John 15:4-5 (Those who abide in the Lord bear much fruit)
	⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
1. Many Christians are easily burnt out after a period of ministry. What insights and encouragement are given in today's Bible passages?	

Prayer	
	God of our salvation, hope of all the ends of the earth, we pray: Thy kingdom come.
	That the world may know Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, we pray: Thy kingdom come.
	That all who are estranged and without hope may be brought near in the blood of Christ, we pray: Thy kingdom come.
	That the Church may be one in serving and proclaiming the gospel, we pray: Thy kingdom come.
	That we may be bold to speak the word of God while you stretch out your hand to save, we pray: Thy kingdom come.

That the Church may be generous in giving,
faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming,
we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That the Church may welcome and support
all whom God calls to faith, we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That all who serve the gospel may be kept in safety
while your word accomplishes its purpose,
we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That all who suffer for the gospel
may know the comfort and glory of Christ,
we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That the day may come when every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

Almighty God,
by your Holy Spirit you have made us one
with your saints in heaven and on earth:
grant that in our earthly pilgrimage
we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer,
and know ourselves surrounded by their witness
to your power and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Day 6 (Tuesday)

Readings	
● 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit)	
	<p>⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.</p>
● Mark 6:7-13 (Jesus sent out the twelve)	
	<p>⁷ Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.</p>
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Holy Spirit has given different talents and services to every individual member of His body. How can we cooperate with others so as to witness the glory of God?2. How can the Gospel be preached more effectively through joining hands with other Christians?	
Prayer	
	<p>Almighty and Ever-living God, thank you so much for all your blessings for our lives. We praise you for your creation, preservation, for the rich cultural heritage, especially for the 5 thousands years of culture among the Chinese people.</p> <p>We thank you for all kinds of spiritual blessings you have bestowed upon us. You have chosen us in Christ before the creation of the world and destined us for adoption as your children.</p> <p>In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins, an inheritance in your Kingdom, the seal of your Spirit, and in Him we live for the praise of your glory.</p> <p>We also thank you that in Christ you are reconciling the world to yourself. So help us to proclaim the good news of your love and salvation, that all who receive it may be reconciled to you through Christ, as He died for us on the cross, rose from the dead and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.</p> <p>Thy Kingdom come! Amen!</p>

Day 7 (Wednesday)

Readings	
●	Joel 2:28-29 (Prophesy the pour out of the Spirit)
	<p>²⁸ Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.</p>
●	Mark 16:14-20 (Apostles were sent out by the Resurrected Lord)
	<p>¹⁴ Later Jesus appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.’</p> <p>¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.</p>
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is it important for the church mission and ministry to be filled with the Holy Spirit concerning mission and ministry of the Church? 2. According to the Gospel of St Mark, with the presence of the Lord, disciples were sent to preach the Gospel with power to make changes for those in need. How can we, with the presence of God, change the hardship of today’s world?
Prayer	
	<p>A Prayer for Wholeness</p> <p>O Lord, penetrate those murky corners where we hide memories and tendencies on which we do not care to look, but which we will not disinter and yield freely up to you,</p> <p>that you may purify and transmute them: the persistent buried grudge, the half-acknowledged enmity which is still smouldering; the bitterness of that loss we have not turned into sacrifice; the private comfort we cling to; the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative and is really inverted pride; the pessimism which is an insult to your joy,</p> <p>Lord; we bring all these to you, and we review them with shame and penitence in your steadfast light.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941)</i></p>

Day 8 (Thursday)

Readings	
●	<p>Romans 10:9-15 (Those who confess in name of the Lord be saved and be sent)</p> <p>⁹Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’</p> <p>¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’</p>
●	<p>Luke 11:9-13 (Ask and it will be given)</p> <p>⁹ ‘So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’</p>
<p><u>Meditation and Reflection</u></p> <p>1. “Every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Paul challenged us in a logical way: if no body is willing to be sent nobody is able to preach, then nobody can listen, believe, call upon Him thus be saved! Are you ready and willing to be sent by the Lord to share His good news to our family members and friends? Are you open to God’s calling for full time ministry?</p>	

Prayer	
Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	<p>Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us; and for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.</p> <p>O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)</i></p>

Day 9 (Friday)

Readings	
●	2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (Seal of the Spirit)
	²⁰ For in him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen', to the glory of God. ²¹ But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, ²² by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment.
●	Luke 4:16-21 (The Spirit of the Lord is upon Jesus to proclaim release of good news)
	¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
1.	"Incarnation" of Jesus implies that His Gospel is proclaimed not only in words, but also in deeds of enriching and setting free the abundant lives of people. How can our Church help people nowadays to experience "the Kingdom of God" and "the year of the Lord's favour"?

Prayer	
	God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing. Lord Jesus Christ, may the tears shed in your earthly life be balm for all who weep, and may the prayers of your pilgrimage give strength to all who suffer; for your mercy's sake.

Day 10 (Saturday)

Readings

- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (Freedom in the Spirit and transformed into glory)

¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

- Luke 24:44-49 (Stay until clothed with power from on high to be witness of the Lord)

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Meditation and Reflection

1. Before His Ascension, what command did the Lord give to His Apostles besides witnessing to His Gospel? (Luke 24:49) How important is that command for us to become effective witness of Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Christ, true light of the world,
shine, we pray, in the hearts of your people,
that we might see the Way that leads to eternal life,
and follow without stumbling;
for you are the Way, O Christ, as you are the Truth and the Life.

Day 11 (Pentecost)

Readings	
● John 20:21-22 (Send you and receive the Holy Spirit)	
	²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'
● Acts 1:8, 4:8-12 (Receive power of the Holy Spirit and go to all the world to be witness of the Lord)	
	^{1:8} Jesus said, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ^{4:8} Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'
<u>Meditation and Reflection</u>	
1. From the experience of Peter, what kind of changes does a person have when being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8-12),?	
2. Under what circumstance in our daily lives do we need courage to witness Christ? How can the Holy Spirit help us?	

Prayer	
	God of life and love, whose Son was victorious over sin and death, make us alive with his life, that the whole world may resound with your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.