

#11 AN INVITATION TO THE CHURCH TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP THIS Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020

Never in the history of Malaysia have we seen the Church praying as much as it does now, as we grapple with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fragile economy, the global downturn, and political turmoil. Many have lost jobs and many businesses have suffered. Even for the Church, everything seems to have to be reinvented and reset. This shaking has seen many people searching for meaning and hope. Many Christians in this 'lockdown' are discovering afresh the importance of a thriving personal relationship with God as the anchor of the soul in such unprecedented times, and of real self-sacrificial love.

Even though we cannot meet physically and be together, we know that prayer knows no boundaries or obstacles or restrictions. Prayer, cannot be 'locked down'. Praise God, that by His sovereign will and design, we are back to experiencing right where the early church was birthed – in the home. We are reminded of the Upper Room experience in the house where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples who had gathered *"all together in one place"* (^{ESV} Acts 2:1) on Pentecost! And to be in the spirit of anticipation for the *'suddenly'* of the move of the Holy Spirit (^{ESV} Acts 2:2)! Let us be expectant and ready for a fresh anointing and visitation of the Holy Spirit right in the most intimate and primary of settings of life - our home and residences - wherever that may be!

Therefore, on this Pentecost Sunday, let us stand in the spirit of fellowship and prayerful unity, just like our early church fathers and the women who ministered to Jesus, *"...with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer"* (^{ESV} Acts 1:14), to ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His Church and the world we have been called to reach. Let us ask for the boldness we need to clearly proclaim God's Word with power and confidence. Let us pray for the mighty move of the Spirit that all may know that Jesus Christ is risen, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and in His victorious life and love, there is hope and peace, and call and purpose. May the mighty Counsellor, the Holy Spirit equip us all to share that love, and to speak of Jesus Christ, and of the love of God our Father. Never before have people been more ready for the gospel.

'Come, Holy Spirit!'

A DAILY ADAPTABLE PRAYER GUIDE [P – R – A – Y]

An adaptable/flexible Prayer Guide for personal and family use during this time of restricted movements.

PAUSE READ Acts 2:1-21 aloud

BE STILL Breathe deeply, and welcome the Holy Spirit.

REPENT As a symbolic act, wash your hands as you read this verse and say a quiet prayer of repentance before the Lord.

^{ESV} **Acts 2:37-39** *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."*

^{ESV} **Acts 3:19-20** *Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.*

PRAYER: *Lord, have mercy on me. Forgive me where I have gone wrong and sinned. Help me to walk in faithful obedience from now on in Your way. Please send me times of refreshing through the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, and restore to me newness of life by Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

CREATIVE REFLECTION (Optional Symbolic Act) Take a piece of square paper to make an origami dove (refer to <https://www.origamiway.com/origami-dove.shtml> for steps). You can complete this later into a 'Pentecost mobile' and hang it up. **Note:** The Holy Spirit came in bodily form as a dove at the baptism of Jesus as described in ^{ESV} Luke 3:22 *"and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

PAUSE BRIEFLY: Thank God for the forgiveness of sins, and ask God again for the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

REJOICE / WORSHIP

PRAY Psalm 145 aloud

SING Song[s] of worship. Suggestions include:

1. Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me (Hymn)

Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me.

Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me.

Melt Me, Mould Me, Fill Me, Use Me,

Spirit Of The Living God, Fall Afresh On Me.

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=126&v=bAYOnxiKxdI&feature=emb_logo)

2. Thy Kingdom Come (Hymn)

Thy Kingdom Come – Lord teach us how to pray

For all to know your joy, your peace and love

And know your friendship each and every day

The breath of Christ, the Father's gentle dove

Thy Kingdom Come – Christ's prayer to make us one

That all may know the Father sent the Son

To celebrate the victory He has won

In love and grace we pray: 'Thy will be done'

Thy Kingdom Come – we pray for those we know

To turn and follow you for all their days

and in your love find peace and service grow

Our one desire and hope your highest praise

Thy Kingdom Come – transform our human ways

Our lives laid down in mercy, truth and care

Nations renewed, in giving thanks and praise

To see God's Kingdom come: this is our prayer

Thy Kingdom Come – we praise your Holy name

Your sacrifice and rising sets us free

That by our words and lives we may proclaim

By Jesus' risen life, God's victory!

Thy Kingdom Come! Thy Kingdom Come! Thy Kingdom Come!

(<https://vimeo.com/417621944>)

3. Father We Declare

And we will say that You are good

And all the miracles You've done have brought us joy

For we are changed and all the hopes we have we place in You right now

Father, we declare that we love You, We declare our everlasting love for You

Father, we declare that we love You, We declare our everlasting love for You

We lift up our eyes above the troubles, In our land

And together we stand to declare You as King

In times like these we choose to praise You

For it's You, it's You who really matters You are worthy of our praise

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8DapiEPCG0>)

4. Come Holy Spirit, Move in Your People

Come Holy Spirit, Move in Your people, Draw us to Jesus His glory to see

Rain down from heaven, fresh living water, Bring us Your liberty.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcU473FWISQ>)

GIVE THANKS for blessings received and answered prayers over the course of the isolation/CMCO.

ASK (A time of Intercession)

PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST In your own sincere and simple words, pause briefly over these suggested prayers as a guide for your prayers for Pentecost.

^{ESV} **Isaiah 61:1-2** “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

1. Church - Spiritual Awakening and Revival

PRAYER: *Living God, you sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into Your church so that we too can join You in accomplishing Your mission. Let us no longer be captives to fear, but messengers of Your saving love, so that all may be reconciled in You. Let there be an invasion from Heaven – to impact the Church once again to a deeper devotion to prayer until we are endued with power from on high through Jesus Christ, our Divine Intercessor. Amen.*

2. Nation and Justice

PRAYER: *Lord God, through Christ You give us peace that the world cannot give. In this time of unprecedented global and national upheaval, let Your Spirit of Truth, our Comforter and Teacher, abide with us so that we may live in hope, grow in faith, and keep your commandments of love. Preserve us from judgement, protect our nation from evil, and lead us into justice and righteousness. In the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

3. Pastors and Church Leaders

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, these we pray for our church leaders and pastors in their life and ministry -*

- *to increase their desire for more of You and more of the fullness of the Spirit;*
- *to increase their desire and will to surrender and give up control, position and recognition; may they be gripped with a new spiritual interest and desire to be “detained in the presence of the Eternal” to be filled with the Holy Spirit;*
- *to increase their thirst and hunger for the person, the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit;*
- *and to experience holistic rejuvenation and refreshing from being in the presence of the Lord.*

In your mighty name we pray, AMEN.

4. Pray for 5 Persons

PRAYER: *As we pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’– we bring our ‘five’ to You, O Lord God, (name them as you pray) to come to a living faith in Jesus Christ – the five for whom each of us are praying that they may know the abundant life that is in Jesus Christ. We pray that You will bless us with the joy of seeing our friends, our family and our colleagues encountering Jesus Christ and beginning a new life of faith. Work in us and through us to be Your channels of grace and mercy, and bold witnesses of Your gospel. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

5. Family

PRAYER: *Thank you, Lord, for affirming the home as Your primary place of worship. We pray for our homes to be Spirit-filled, and examples of hospitality, generosity and care for the body of Christ. We pray that our homes may be Upper Rooms for prayer and fellowship in Christ, and a haven that brings restoration and respite to those who are in need. Protect us from worldliness and distractions so that the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit may be poured in and through our family to bless each other and the body of Christ, that we may be Your light in our neighbourhoods, as we desire after - “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15b). Amen.*

6. Communities and Social Transformation

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, we ask that You will pour down your Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin, bring reconciliation of relationships and families, and restoration of broken communities and neighbourhoods. We pray for our neighbours and communities to be transformed and rebuilt through forgiveness, forbearance and agape love, as we confront the big issues of social polarisation, poverty and injustice. Amen.*

7. Personal Holiness

PRAYER: *Fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I may be a living portrait of Christ. In the words of St. Augustine of Hippo, this I pray –*

*Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy;*

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend that is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. AMEN.

YIELD

^{ESV} **Galatians 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

PRAYER: *Spirit of God, we yield ourselves to You today. Powerfully fill us anew on this Pentecost Sunday. Make us once again passionate in our faith, committed to holiness, courageous beyond our imagining, generous in giving, joyful in living, faithful in loving - without reservation to friend or enemy, to bring "Your Kingdom come".*

Send Your Holy Wind among us, not as a gentle breeze but as a strong and sudden wind of fire, to burn into our hearts, a passion for Your truth and a burning desire to proclaim it. Give us tongues of fire, Lord God, to speak out fervently for Your justice and righteousness: to be the voices of those in this world made voiceless because they are oppressed and forgotten; to speak the language of peace in a world bombarded by racism, violence, hate, and greed.

Light Your holy fire in us, we pray, just like the prophet Jeremiah (^{ESV} Jeremiah 20:9) who said : "I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot". That we will speak boldly and clearly of the simplicity of the gospel that sets hearts, minds and souls free, and brings the walking dead, to life. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

DECLARE ^{NIB} Ephesians 1:17-20 AS A BLESSING FOR ONE ANOTHER

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

FINISH BY OFFERING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (^{ESV} Matthew 6:9-13)

BE STILL

Breathe deeply, thank God for His presence and release into His hands all you've prayed.

DAILY PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

You are encouraged to use this prayer guide **daily, and invited to together with one voice** to do the following:

1. Pray **The Lord's Prayer** (Our Father who are in heaven) at **12 noon every day**.
2. **Pray twice a day – at 7:14am and at 7:14pm** – based on 2 Chronicles 7:14
[UNITE714 Call for the healing of the lands from coronavirus and for the spiritual awakening of the nations.]
3. **Thy Kingdom Come – Light Up the World initiative.** Light up your neighbourhood, town, city or region by registering on Thy Kingdom Come Global website on the link below as you pledge to continue to pray for 5, and pray for spiritual awakening and national transformation.
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld>
4. **Pray for 5** - friends, family or colleagues faithfully every day to come to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.