

Week of Prayer

# THE WATERS RISE

Prayer Guide

31 May - 6 June



# INTRODUCTION

**Bible reading:** John 7:38; Ezekiel 47:1, 9; John 10:10

Church, this is a significant moment.

Some things are still hard. Some things are still unanswered. Some things are still unhealed. But God has been at work in the hidden place, and what he has been building within us is ready to rise.

Like a canal boat in a lock, the waters have been rising. The waters ARE rising.

While we were waiting, the waters were rising. While we were grieving, the waters were rising. In the silence, the waters were rising. Rising from within. the 'Zoe' - life of God himself, planted like a spring in the innermost being of his people, pressing upward unstoppable, unhurried.

*"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."* (John 7:38)

This is not borrowed strength or manufactured momentum. It is very life of God rising within his church, within each one of us.

This week we rise with it.

It's time to raise our voices.

It's time to get before the throne of grace.

It's time to offer bold, expectant, costly prayers.

Daniel did not wait for the promise to fulfil itself. He read the times, stood on the word, and rose into urgent intercession. Bartimaeus cried out louder when they told him to be quiet, until Jesus stopped for him. Then he threw off the cloak that had defined him and rose to meet the one calling his name.

That is who the church has always been.

We carry prophetic words over this house. "I have many people in this place"... "a convergence of rich and poor"... "a stakeholder of authority in the town in the area of social action". These words still stand. We are not content to let any word God has spoken fall to the ground - over our individual lives, or over us as a community of God's people. We contend for all of it, speaking God's promises back to him. There are people in our streets, our workplaces, our families, already known by God, already called his own, waiting for the river to reach them.

Seven days. Seven stages of movement God wants to take us through.

**Still. Stirring. Rising. Filling. Deepening. Overflowing. Alive.**

The gates will open. Not because we forced them, but because the waters have raised us to a new level, ready for everything God has prepared on the other side.

**Church. The waters are rising. Let us rise with them.**

This booklet is your daily companion for the week. What God has declared over us corporately, he now works out in us. Seven days. Seven movements. We come with expectation, ready to rise.

Sunday 31 May

# STILL

**Bible reading:** Psalm 46; 1 King's 19:11-13

Before the church can rise, she must first learn to be still.

Not still as in passive or as in resigned. Still as in rooted. Still as in refusing to be moved by the noise, because something deeper has already spoken.

The world doesn't look like we want it to. Things feel unanswered, unhealed, unfinished. Waters roar and mountains quake. But into the noise, the Lord speaks: *"Be still..."*

It's not a call to bury the pain, to ignore the uncertainty, or to brush over the brokenness. But to stand in the wilderness and look up. To shift our posture from uncertainty and fear to active trust and quiet faith.

*"Be still... and know that I am God."*

Peace comes when we surrender control and acknowledge that he is God and we are not. The Lord Almighty is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress. He is powerful and he is present.

Elijah did not find God in the earthquake or the fire or the great and terrible wind. He found him in the still small voice that required him to stop, to slow, to listen. God was not absent in the wilderness. He was present in a register that could only be heard when everything else fell quiet.

Be attentive to his presence. Listen - not for the roar of the trials, but for the whisper of his voice. Be still. He is still God.

## RESPONSE

- Take a moment to consider: what has been hard or painful, in your own life or the lives of those you love?
- Pause and acknowledge God's presence. Thank him that he is still God.
- Ask him what he wants to say to you.

## Prayer Points | God's promises

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO: PRAY GOD'S PROMISES BACK TO HIM

Here are some of the key prophetic words we've received over the years. Read them aloud, see what stirs you, and ask the Father to make them a reality.

*"You are to be lights on the hills – a torch from which lights will be lit on all the hills around High Wycombe, bringing men and women to salvation and deliverance and the fullness of the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ."*

– **A recurring word given to the church around 1980**

*"In Acts 18, God says to Paul, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you... I have many people in this city." The Lord is saying to you, "I have many people in this place."*  
– **Given to Neil Bartlett, January 2009**

*"God is going to bring a convergence of rich and poor in order to experience the truth and life of God. He is going to cause a breakthrough in evangelistic potency and fruitfulness, and there will be an influx of people coming in from two different sides of society and encountering God as a result. God is going to begin to use this church as a resource financially to finance mission, to finance what God is going to do."*  
– **Julian Adams, July 2013**

*"God is giving you the keys to the city. King's is coming into a season of favour in the town where you will be invited to the table of influence; a church that will not be on the margins, but in the centre... a stakeholder of authority in the town. And this will particularly be in the area of social action, in how you care for the poor and the most vulnerable."*

– **Phil Wilthew, September 2018**

Monday 1 June

# STIRRING

**Bible reading:** Isaiah 43:16-19; Luke 24:32

Remember who our God is, and what he has done.

This is the God who parts the sea. Who snuffs out mighty armies, reducing them to dust. Who makes a way when there's no way.

In desert lands, he brings life. Where there's no water, he can create it. Where there's no refreshment, he can provide it. And now, he is moving again.

The waters are stirring – in our church, in our nation, across the earth. Do you perceive it? Can you sense it? Will you embrace it?

We look back, but we don't dwell in the past – we don't camp there. Instead, we let the things we've seen and heard give us expectation for what he's doing now.

Something fresh, something new.  
Look. See. Behold.

## RESPONSE

- Consider: how have you seen God move in the past, in your own life, or in the lives of those around you?
- As you look around – in our church and beyond – what 'new thing' do you perceive him doing now?
- Ask God what he wants you to do in response

## Prayer Points | Our nation & the nations

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

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- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND THE NATIONS

Today is an opportunity to lift up our nation and the nations, asking God to see his kingdom come.

- **Pick a nation** – it could be the UK, your birth nation, or a nation that's close to your heart – **and pray big prayers:** for the gospel to be preached and received, for many to be saved; for signs and wonders to break out that draw people to glorify Jesus; for a courageous Church to rise up; and for righteous government in that nation, inspired by the love, grace and wisdom of the Lord.

- **Pray for the places where we're at work overseas:**
  - For our work in **Nepal**, where we partner with King's Church Kathmandu and support two amazing children's homes – pray for Amos and Jen Lhomi and the rest of the KCK leadership team.
  - For the **Arab Gulf region**, where we support two amazing church members who minister in local churches and equip Christian workers.
  - For **Catalyst**, the apostolic movement of churches we're a part of, as they start and strengthen churches that multiply disciples to see God's kingdom fill the Earth.
- **Pray for God to lead us into new and emerging overseas mission opportunities to support and bless as a church** – that God would raise up church planters at King's who will go on to plant churches in the UK and overseas.

Tuesday 2 June

# RISING

**Bible reading:** Ezekiel 47:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-3

Watch. The stirring waters are becoming something else.

First a trickle, then a river. Gentle at first, then expanding, unstoppable. This is the life of God, flowing from his throne to his people, and it does not stop.

Ankle deep, knee deep, waist deep. Now waters deep enough to swim in. The fresh waters of his presence, emptying into the sea, turning everything it touches to life. This is not a picture of gradual human improvement; it is the uncreated life of God breaking into dead places and refusing to leave them the same way.

The power of God healing and restoring. The life of God permeating our world – our families, our health, our relationships, our workplace, changing everything it touches.

And Isaiah hears the same movement and speaks into it: “Arise, for your light has come.”

The rising is not something we achieve – it is something we respond to. The glory of the Lord has already risen. The light has already broken. The church does not manufacture this moment. She rises into it.

Church. The waters are rising. His presence is here. Arise.

## RESPONSE

- Reflect: how deep are you right now in the river of God’s presence? On the shore? Ankle deep? Waist deep?
- What one step would take you further in? Not a plan – a step.
- Ask the Spirit to draw you deeper. Then take the step.

## Prayer Points | Signs & wonders

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we’d become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR SIGNS AND WONDERS

Jesus has authority over sickness, over storms, over demons and death. Today, pray for kingdom breakthrough to come in our church and beyond.

**Please pray:**

- For a **fresh outpouring of the Spirit** on the church, equipping all of us to extend the kingdom rule of God into every environment.
- For **miraculous healing**: Think of people you know and love who have any kind of physical, psychological or emotional pain and sickness. Pray they’d know the presence and comfort of God, and pray with authority for their healing.
- For **salvation**: Every salvation story is a death-to-life story. So lift people to God today, and pray for salvation to come, knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and that the Spirit can soften the hardest heart.
- That we’d be **naturally supernatural** people: Think of all the places you’ll go today, and the people you’ll interact with. Ask God for opportunities to bring a touch of the kingdom into those places – peace where there’s anxiety, freedom where there’s captivity, truth where there’s confusion, love where there’s apathy and hate.

Wednesday 3 June

# FILLING

**Bible passages:** Ephesians 3:14-19; Ephesians 5:18-21

The river does not flow past us. It flows into us.

The Father desires to fill his people - to fill his church. Not simply to observe his life moving, but to receive it deeply within us. For us to grasp the extent of his love. To understand it, and experience it, in a way that surpasses knowledge.

God's love is wide - it covers the breadth of our experiences. God's love is long - it never runs out, never runs dry, covers the length of our lives. God's love is high, rising to the heights of our joy and elation - and it's deep, reaching down to the depths of our despair.

And this is not distant or theoretical. The Holy Spirit comes personally - bringing his presence, his peace, his joy, his strength. Filling weary hearts again with the life of God.

All the fullness of God is available to us, through the personal presence of the Holy Spirit - his love, his power, his joy, his peace. Life to the full. Drink it in.

## RESPONSE

- Open up your posture, open out your hands, and ask God to fill you with his presence.
- Receive his love afresh, as a gift.
- Stay still for a few moments, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

## Prayer Points | Our church family

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** - an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Today, we'd love you to pray for our church family - that we'd be committed to Jesus and committed to one another.

#### Please pray:

- For a fresh outpouring of the Spirit on the church, equipping us and empowering us to love one another and to reach out to the lost.
- That our church family would be marked by unity, that where the enemy seeks to bring disunity and disruption, we'd pursue love and togetherness.
- That we'd be a church family where everyone plays their part, using the diversity of gifts God has given us.
- For the spaces where we meet together outside of Sunday mornings, like our small groups - that these would be places of love and encouragement, where disciples are made and trained.
- That we'd devote ourselves to Jesus, to the word, to prayer and to reaching out - and that we'd be known for our counter-cultural, gospel-centred generosity.

Thursday 4 June

# DEEPENING

**Bible passage:** Psalm 42:7; Luke 5:1-11

There comes a point where shallow water is no longer enough.

The Lord continues to call us deeper – beyond what feels safe and manageable, beyond the places where we remain fully in control, into deeper trust and surrender. *'Deep calls to deep.'* Something in the heart of God is calling out to something deeper within us.

Peter had already worked all night and caught nothing. The boats were empty. The nets were clean. But then Jesus spoke: *"Put out into deep water..."*

The deep is often where certainty disappears and our own strength runs out. But it is also where trust grows, where dependence deepens, and where we discover again that God is faithful.

The river of God is not shallow. His love is not shallow. His purposes for his church are not shallow.

So he calls us deeper still – deeper into surrender, deeper into communion with him, and from that place, deeper in prayer.

The waters are rising, and they are drawing us further in.

## RESPONSE

- Reflect: have you ever not followed God's prompting because of a desire for 'safety' or being in control?
- Ask God whether he is inviting you deeper in some area of your life - are there any risks he is asking you to take for him?
- Spend a few moments surrendering yourself afresh to him.

## Prayer Points | Our leaders & teams

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS AND TEAMS

Today, we'd love you to pray for those who serve in the church, whether it's in full-time ministry, or leading or serving voluntarily in teams.

**Please pray:**

- For our elders, trustees and staff team (you can see who they are at [kchw.co.uk/leadership](http://kchw.co.uk/leadership)). Please pray for them:
  - to be filled with the Spirit
  - for encouragement, unity and godly wisdom
  - for the joy and peace of the Lord
  - for protection for them and their families

- Ask the Lord to highlight individuals in the team, and listen to God for them – let them know what you feel he is saying to you for them.
- For our leaders across the church – small group leaders, ministry leaders, worship leaders, meeting leaders...: for a revelation of sonship – that leading would be a joy not a burden, and that they'd lead from a place of knowing they are beloved sons and daughters.
- For all our serving teams – that we'd see togetherness and joy in our teams – that we'd radiate the grace, humility and joy of Jesus Christ as we serve.
- For mobilisation of new leaders and new people joining serving teams, every person playing their part (Eph 4:16).

Friday 5 June

# OVERFLOWING

**Bible passages:** John 7:37-44; Acts 1:4-11

The life of God was never meant to stop with us.

Jesus stood and called out: *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”* Before the watching crowd, he makes the invitation public: ‘I am the source. Come. Drink.’

And whoever drinks becomes a carrier. Rivers begin to flow - not manufactured effort or forced momentum, but the unstoppable overflow of a life filled with the Spirit of God. The river rises within us so that it might flow outward.

Into our homes and families. Into our workplaces, schools and friendships. Into ordinary conversations, acts of kindness, courageous witness and persistent prayer. The Spirit fills the church not to make us comfortable, but to make us carriers of his life into dry places,.

Church, we were not filled in order to contain it. We were filled so that the river reaches those who are still waiting for it to arrive.

Life flows naturally when we remain close to the source.

Stay near to him. Drink deeply again. Let the Spirit overflow into every part of your life - and beyond it

## RESPONSE

- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh today.
- Name one person or place that needs the life of God. Pray for them specifically, with expectation.
- Ask God to make you attentive and available to his leading.

## Prayer Points | Our outreach & social action

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTION

Today, we'd love you to focus on the ways we're reaching out to those in our own lives, and on the works we've planted to serve those in our town.

#### Please pray:

- For those on your BLESS list: friends, family, neighbours, colleagues who don't yet know Jesus. Pray for opportunities to listen to them, eat with them, serve them, and share your story and the gospel with them. (Find out about BLESS at [kchw.co.uk/bless](http://kchw.co.uk/bless))

- For the wonderful gospel-centred ministries that have been planted here intentionally to serve those in our town. In each area, pray for protection and wisdom for the leaders and teams, for the presence of God, for good relationships to be built, and for freedom and salvation:
  - **King's Table**, serving those caught in life-controlling addictions and homelessness.
  - **Chosen**, seeking to love and serve women caught in sexual exploitation.
  - **Christians Against Poverty**, serving and supporting those caught in unmanageable cycles of debt.
  - **Learning English**, providing English language skills and community to women and men for whom English isn't their first language, and seeds for the kingdom of God.
  - **Little Stars**, serving young children and parents and carers in our town.
  - **Bridge Court Outreach**, seeking to love and serve those housed in Bridge Court, next to the church building.
  - **Youth Outreach**, a developing ministry, in partnership with TLG (Transforming Lives for Good), to reach out with the gospel and the love of Jesus into schools and among young people of our town.

Saturday 6 June

# ALIVE

**Bible passage:** Revelation 22:1-5; Ezekiel 47:8-9

The river always carries life. This is where the week has been heading all along.

Where the waters flow, deserts bloom. Dry ground softens. Trees bear fruit. Seas once marked by death become filled with life again. The river of God changes everything it touches.

This is the heart of God. Not simply to gather people around his presence, but to fill them so completely with his life that the world around them begins to change. Bringing healing where there is brokenness. Hope where there is despair. Joy where there is heaviness. Life where things once seemed beyond recovery.

The final picture of Scripture is not a fortress. It is a river - flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, through the middle of the great city, carrying healing to the nations. The church at the end of all things is not a people huddled in safety. She is a people through whom the life of God reaches the world.

And so the week ends here. Not with a feeling. With a reality.

Not shallow religion. Not exhausted striving. But the uncreated life of God, alive within his people, overflowing into the world he loves.

The waters have been rising all along.

And wherever the river goes, everything lives.

## RESPONSE

- Thank God for the ways he has been at work in you this week.
- Pray for our church, our town and our nation. Ask that the river of God would bring life wherever it flows.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain close to the source long after this week ends.

## Prayer Points | The generations

### STEP ONE. PRAY FOR OUR TWO DAILY PRAYER POINTS

- For a **new church building**, giving us space to serve our ministries, to grow, and to reach more people with the love of Jesus. Pray God would show us where to look, open doors, and that he would provide miraculously.
- That we'd become a **resource church** – an exceedingly generous church that resources kingdom advance beyond our walls, our borders and our generations. Pray God would lead us on a journey of faith that sees the kingdom break in, and that brings us new depths of joy as we give.

### STEP TWO. PRAY FOR THE GENERATIONS

We're blessed to be a church of all different ages. Today, pray for the different generations in our big church family, lifting them to God.

**Please pray:**

- For **King's Kids**: that the youngest members of our family would have life-changing encounters with Jesus, and that out of it, they'd grow in their gifting and live with daily expectation of what's possible with God.

- For **King's Youth**: that the spiritual temperature would be raised further still among our young people. That they'd love Jesus, love the Bible and love prayer – and that they'd be so full of the Spirit that they can't stop talking about Jesus!
- For our **Young Adults & Students**: that they'd continue to hunger for more of Jesus and put following him above everything else at a time when life starts to get very busy, and that the 'quiet revival' happening in this generation would continue, spread and that many would come to know Jesus.
- For **PowerHouse and those in the retired generations**: that God would ignite and fuel a fresh passion for Jesus, unlock spiritual gifts, and release new joy in serving, praying and reaching out.
- For **everyone in between** – whatever their background, whatever they're facing, that God would fill them and equip them with his Spirit today.



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