

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Night Prayer from a New Zealand Prayer Book

March 19, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote: "I lie down in peace and take my rest For it is in God alone that I dwell unafeard."

Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God.

APPROACH

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quieten the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Silence

My brothers and sisters,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way
my bright evening star.
We repent the wrongs we have done.

Silence

We have wounded your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame, burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

PSALM 121

The psalm is sung by the choir on behalf of all.

Anglican Chant, H. Walford Davies

I lift up my eyes to the hills;*
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,*
The maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved*
And he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel*
Shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you;*
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,*
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;*
It is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,*
from this time forth forever more.

READING

Romans 8: 31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

CHANT

O Lord, hear my prayer; from Songs and Prayers from Taizé

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B⁷

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O

5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B⁷ Em *Last Time*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me. O

Em G/D Am/C D Em B⁷ Em *Last Time*

PRAYERS

Into your hands, O God I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The following antiphon is said together, before the Nunc Dimittis.

Preserve us, O God, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.

SONG OF SIMEON

The sung by the choir on behalf of all.

Nunc Dimittis; Plainsong

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

All then say:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen

The minister and people pray responsively.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

A concluding prayer is said followed by the Sentence of the Day

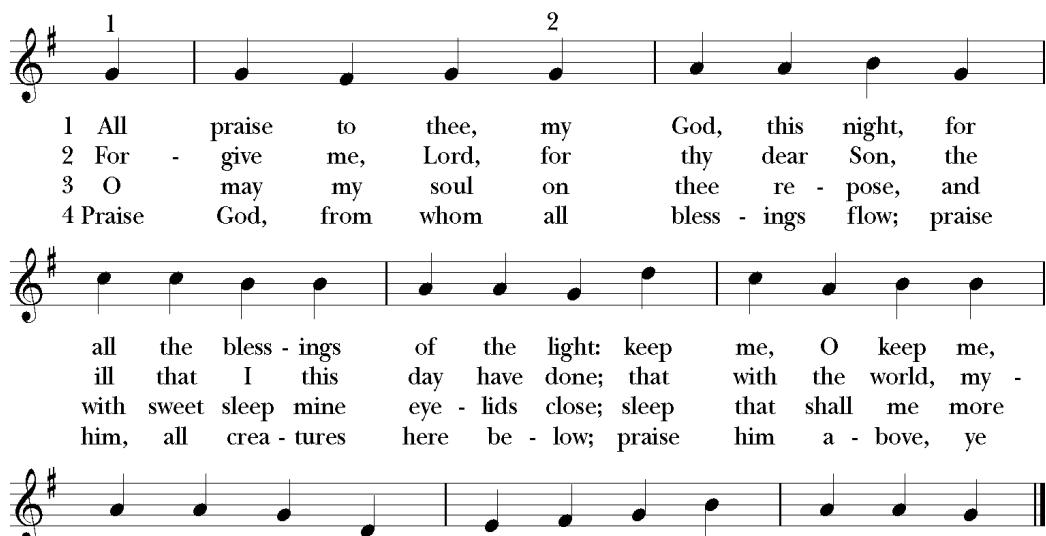
Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night herald the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities, In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENTENCE OF THE DAY

Christ be within us to keep us, beside us to guard, before us to lead, behind us to protect, beneath us to support, above us to bless.

HYMN

All praise to thee; from Hymnal 1982



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for
2 For give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the
3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and
4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

all the bless - ings of the light: keep me, O keep me,
ill that I this day have done; that with the world, my -
with sweet sleep mine eye - lids close; sleep that shall me more
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
vi - gorous make to serve my God when I a - wake.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

FINAL VERSICLE

The service concludes

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE LITURGY

Officiant	The Reverend Denise Ann Trogdon, <i>rector</i>
Assisting	The Very Reverend Mark R. Brinkmann, <i>senior associate</i>
	The Reverend Pamela H. Fahrner, <i>associate</i>
Musicians	Dr. Jason A. Wright, <i>minister of music and the arts</i>
	Voces Sacris
	Carole Owen, <i>soprano</i>
	Melea Brotherton, <i>alto</i>
	Jerry Simmons, <i>tenor</i>
	David Purdy, <i>baritone</i>
	Paul Barnard, <i>bass</i>

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating and Sharing God's love for all.

All Saints Mission: To be a channel of God's love.

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