

Compline from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer

Officiant: The angels of God guard us through the night,

People: and quieten the powers of darkness.

Officiant: The Spirit of God be our guide

People: 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,

People: who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,

thank you for all that is good,

for our creation and for 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.

People: O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.

People: 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,

People: that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.

People: Alleluia, alleluia.

One of the following is said

Psalm 16

O God, I give you thanks for the wisdom of your counsel,
even at night you have instructed my heart.

I have set your face always before me,
you are at my right hand and I shall not fall.

Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices,
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not give me over to the power of death,
nor let your faithful one see the Pit.

In your presence is the fullness of joy,
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains,
but where shall I find help?

From you alone, O God, does my help come,
creator of the ever changing hills.

You will not let me stumble on the rough pathways,
you care for me and watch over me without ceasing.

I am sure that the Guardian of my people
neither slumbers nor sleeps.

The God of all nations keeps watch,
like a shadow spread over me.

So the sun will not strike me by day,
nor the moon by night.

You will defend me in the presence of evil,
you will guard my life.

You will defend my going out and my coming in,
this night and always.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

1 John 4:18-20

One of these is said in unison
**God that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May thine angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night.
Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
And, when we die,
May we in thy mighty keeping
All peaceful lie:
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Do not thou our God forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With thee on high.**

or

**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 my end, and at my departing.**

Prayers

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

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
People: 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 (*Nunc Dimittis*)

**Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.
At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever.
Amen.**

Repeat the antiphon

**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.**

Officiant: Kyrie eleison.

People: Christe eleison.

Officiant: Kyrie eleison.

The Lord's Prayer or the alternative is said.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Or

**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.**

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

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

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

One of the two is said in unison

**Be present, Spirit of God,
within us, your dwelling place and home,
that this house may be one where
all darkness is penetrated by your light,
all troubles calmed by your peace,
all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering,
and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.**

or

**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 heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.
In your name we pray.
Amen.**

The Officiant says

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.

The service concludes

Officiant: The divine Spirit dwells in us.

People: Thanks be to God.