

Compline: A Night Service for Healing St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church

June 2, 2021 – The First Book of Common Prayer

The first book of Common Prayer came into use on the Day of Pentecost, June 9, 1549. From this book descended all subsequent editions and revisions of the Book in the Churches of the Anglican Communion. Prepared by a Commission, its format, substance and style was primarily the work of Thomas Cramner, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1533-1556. Principle sources: medieval Latin service books of the Sarum Rite, enrichments from the Greek liturgies, ancient Gallican Rites, vernacular German forms prepared by Luther, and a revised Latin liturgy of the reforming Archbishop Hermann of Cologne. The Psalter and biblical passages were from the English "Great Bible" authorized by King Henry VIII in 1539. The Litany was taken from the Great English form issued as early as 1544. The originality of the Prayer Book lay in its simplification of the complicated liturgical usages of the medieval Church, so that it was suitable for use by the laity as well as by the clergy. It is a book that is a manual for common worship as well as a primary source for personal spirituality. It is truly a book that all the people can claim as their own. It is not just a book of the clergy. It is a book that comes alive in the world in our prayer and in our lives. (from Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints)

Our weekly Compline has enriched our prayer together and strengthened our faith. It reminds us that we pray always and everywhere, not just on Sunday. Give thanks for this prayer and for each other.

The Approach

Reader 1: The angels of God guard us through the night,
Reader 2: ***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 labor 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 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.

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.

The Invocation

Like the first disciples before the coming of God's power at Pentecost,
We wait in faith, and pray.

Silence

Be with us, Holy Spirit;

nothing can separate us from your love.

Be with us as of old, fill us with your power,

direct all our thoughts to your goodness.

Be present, Holy Spirit;

Bring faith and healing and peace.

Silence

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

The Psalmody

Psalm 33

Reader 3: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous *

Reader 4: **praise comes well from the upright in heart.**

Give thanks to the Lord on the harp *

sing God's praise with the ten-stringed lute.

Sing to the Lord a new song *

play loudly with all your skill.

For your word O Lord is true *

and you are faithful in all you do.

You love what is just and right *

the earth is full of your kindness.

By your word were the heavens made *

and the stars in their hosts by the breath of your mouth.

You gathered up the sea as into a water-jar *
you laid up the deep as in a storehouse.

Let all the earth fear you O Lord *
and all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of you.

For you spoke, and the world came to be *
you commanded and it stood firm.

You Lord bring the counsels of the nations to nothing *
and frustrate the designs of the peoples.

Your counsel shall endure for ever *
the purpose of your heart to all generations.

Reader 5: How blest are the people whose God is the Lord *

Reader 6: **the people you chose as your own possession.**

You Lord look down from heaven upon all people *
from the place where you dwell
you consider all who inhabit the earth.

You fashion the hearts of the all *
and observe all their deeds.

A king is not saved by a mighty army *
nor is a warrior delivered by much strength.

But your eye O Lord is on those who fear you *
on those who rely on your steadfast love

To deliver them from death *
and to keep them alive in famine.

We have waited eagerly for you O Lord *
for you are our help and our shield.

Our heart shall rejoice in you *
because we have hoped in your holy name.

Let your constant love attend us O Lord *
as we put our trust in you.

Reader 7: I will give thanks to the Lord at all times:

Reader 8: **God's praise will always be on my lips.**

My soul will glory in the Lord:
the humble will hear and be glad.

O praise the Lord with me:
let us exalt God's name together.

I sought your help O Lord and you answered me:
and freed me from all my fears.

Look towards the Most High, and be radiant with light:
and your faces will not be ashamed.

In my affliction I cried out, and the Lord heard me:
and saved me from all my troubles.

Your angel O Lord keeps guard around those who fear you:
to rescue them in time of danger.

Taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
happy are those who find refuge in the Most High.

The Holy Scripture

1 Kings 8:55-61

Reader 9:

Solomon stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice: "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised; not one has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our ancestors. Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires; so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Therefore devote yourselves completely to the lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."

(silence for reflection)

Acts 2:37-42

Reader 10:

The people said to Peter and the other apostles: "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other argument and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers.

(silence for reflection)

John 4:21-24

Reader 11:

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

(silence for reflection)

Reader 1:

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, whose servant Thomas Cranmer, with others, restored the language of the people in the prayers of your Church: Make us always thankful for this heritage; and help us so to pray in the Spirit and with the understanding, that we may worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers

Reader : 3 God, you are working still, breaking down and building up;
open our eyes to discern your hands
so that we may take our place as laborers together with you.
(p. 614, NZ Book of Common Prayer)

Reader 4: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
Reader 5: **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.

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

Reader 4: 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.

Reader 5: 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 to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Reader 4: 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.

Reader 3: 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 forever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

We pray this night for the healing of our nation and our world.

Reader 5: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed we may live in justice and peace.

Lord, in your Mercy:

Reader 6: Hear our prayer.

Reader 5: O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

Lord, in your Mercy:

Reader 5: Hear our prayer.

Reader 6: Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy.

Lord, in your Mercy:

Reader 6: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Lord, in your Mercy:
Reader 8: Hear our prayer.

Reader 4:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader 1: God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;
Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
You are God, and we need You. Amen. *(p. 747, NZ Book of Common Prayer)*

Reader 12: 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.

Reader 1: God be in my head, and in my understanding.

Reader 2: God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

Reader 3: God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

Reader 4: God be in my heart, and in my thinking.

Reader 5: God be at my end, and at my departing.

Reader 1: To God the Creator,
 who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,
To God the Redeemer,
 who loves us and by dying and rising pioneered the way of freedom.
To God the Sanctifier,
 who spreads the divine love in our hearts,
Be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!