

NIGHT PRAYER

OPENING SONG

Leader: The Angels of God guard us through the night.

People: and quieten the powers of darkness.

Leader: The Spirit of God be our guide

People: To lead us to peace and to glory.

Leader: 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

Leader: My sisters and brothers, our help is in the name of the eternal God,

People: who is making the heavens and the earth.

Leader: 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

Leader: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Leader: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

Leader: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Leader: 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

Leader: Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,

People: that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Leader: Let us worship the God of love.

People: Amen, Amen.

Psalm 65 *(translated by Stephen Mitchell)*

Leader:

It is fitting to praise you, Holy One,
giver of all good things,
to thank you for your boundless mercy,
which renews us and makes us whole.
Happy are those who find you
and open themselves to your light.

Every day you appear to us
and reveal your grandeur on the earth.
You create the hills and the mountains
and set them immovably in place.
You silence the roaring of the seas;
you calm the turmoil of the nations.
People to the ends of the earth
are overawed by your wonders;
at the gates of morning and evening
they stand up and shout for joy.

You care for the earth and nourish her,
filling her rivers with your rain,
You send down water to her furrows,
making her ridges settle,
softening her with showers,
and blessing her with new growth.
You make her soil rich and fertile
and ready to bring forth fruit.
You crown the year with abundance;
the earth overflows with your goodness.
The hills are covered with sheep;
the valleys are clothed with grain.
The pastures fill up with lushness,
and the meadows burst into bloom.
They shout their exhilaration;
they sing; they are wild with joy...

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Reader:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Isaiah 60:1-6

From *For the Time Being*, Concluding Chorus (by W. H. Auden)

Leader:

He is the Way.
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness,
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy!

Leader: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

People: For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Leader: Keep me, O God, as the apple of Your eye;

People: hide me under the shadow of your wings.

*The following antiphon is said together, before the **Song of Simeon***

People: 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

People: 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 forever. Amen.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord have mercy.

The Prayer that Jesus Taught

People: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader invites the people to offer their own prayers in the chat or silently at home

The leader and people pray responsively.

Leader: I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

People: for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Leader: Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,

People: let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

Leader: May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,

People: glorified and exalted above all for ever.

*The leader selects and starts one of the following prayers, **the people join in after the first line.***

*The service concluding with the leader saying the Sentence of the Day, the closing song (We Remember), and **people responding in the concluding sentence of the Final Versicle.***

1

Leader: Be present, Spirit of God,

**People: 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

2

Leader: God our Creator, our centre, our friend,

**People: we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead, and for all who have helped and
influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end.
Amen.**

Or

3

Leader: Lord, it is night.

**People: 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.

Sentence of the Day

Leader: The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

Closing Song: We Remember

We remember how you loved us to your death
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;
and we believe that we will see you when you come
to your glory, Lord.
We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Leader: The divine Spirit dwells in us.

People: Thanks be to God.

To all attending: Please unmute your sound and say “farewell” or “goodnight” or “peace” to those who have worshipped with you this evening. Then go in peace.