

Night Prayer — A New Zealand Prayer Book

*Some directions for our service: When you join the meeting please say, "hello" to let us know you are joining; **And then mute your sound!***

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 brothers and sisters, 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: Alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm

Psalm 121

Leader: 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.

Reading

Silence may follow the reading.

Reader: It is the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

Hymn 4

Leader: Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
that you, with love and lasting light,
would guard us through the hours of night.
From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
redeem through us our evil foe,
that we no lasting harm may know.
O wisest Guide, grant all we ask,
fulfill in us your holy task,
surround us with your love and care,
and lead us on, your life to share.
All praise to God, sustaining us,
redeeming and transforming us,
thanksgiving in eternity,
all praise, beloved Trinity.

Prayers

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 an 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 for ever.
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 for ever. Amen.**

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 on the second line.
The service concludes with the leader saying the **Sentence of the Day** and people responding in the
concluding sentence of the Final Versicle.*

1

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.

2

God our Creator, our centre, our friend,
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.

3

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.

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.

Final Versicle

The service concludes

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.