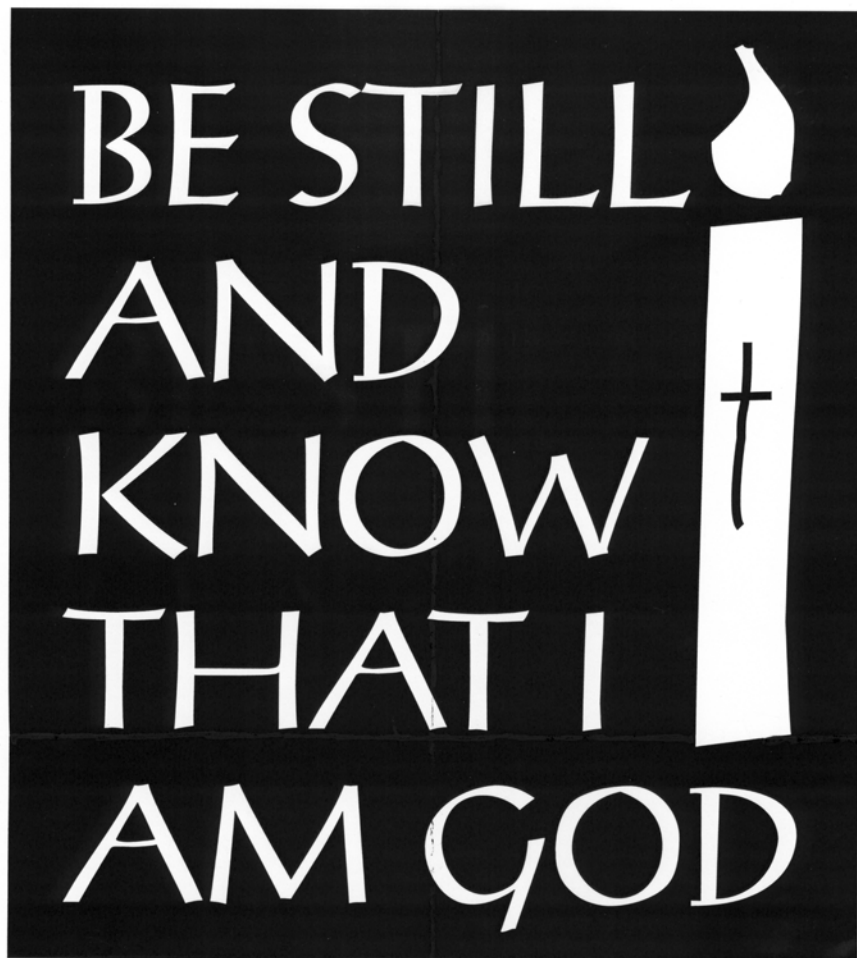


Compline:



An Order for Night Prayer

Week 6

*When all have gathered, the leader begins;
others respond with the portions in bold type.*

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet 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 our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
**For those beloved of God are given gifts
even while they sleep.**

The Penitential Rite

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 31.1–5

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

**Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.**

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

Glory to God,

**Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Philippians 2.5–11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Thanks be to God.

Silence

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

Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

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

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; *
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Glory to God,
Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.

Statement of Faith

We believe in God above us,
**Maker and Sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of male and female.**

We believe in God beside us,
**Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
he descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb;
he ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present;
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

We believe in God within us,
**the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

The Prayers

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 hope, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.**

All offer prayers or thanksgiving, silently or aloud

O living God,

in Jesus Christ you were laid in the tomb at this evening hour,
and thereby sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope to your people.

Give us courage and faith to die daily to our sin and pride,

that even as this flesh and blood decays,

our lives still may grow in you,

that at the last, we may pass through the gate of death

and live in you for ever. **Amen.**

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 tender mercy's sake. **Amen.**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

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

glorified and exalted above all for ever.

The Lord's Prayer (paraphrase)

**Most compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you:
may we work with you to establish
your new order of justice, peace and love.
Give us what we need for growth,
and help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil.
For all the tenderness,
strength and love are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
Amen.