

Compline (Night Prayer) Christ Church, Lancaster



A time of stillness is kept before the service, as we offer the past day to God and ask for His peace and protection as we sleep.

You may use the following prayer from New Zealand:

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 Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

Most merciful God,

we confess to you,

before the whole company of heaven and one another,

that we have sinned in thought, word and deed

and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit

and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

○ God, make speed to save us. ● **Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

The following hymn may be read or sung.

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our eyes, From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread under foot our deadly foe, That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done, Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalms 4 and 134 may be read or sung.

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

And:

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

A brief, prayerful pause may be kept part-way through each verse.

At the end of the Psalm:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading - one of the following, or another suitable verse.

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. *Revelation 22.4,5*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14.9*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8, 9*

Thanks be to God.

A Responsory:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon, Luke 2.29-32) is read or sung.

**Save us, O Lord while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, 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 the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Silence may be kept.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

The service may end with a hymn to Mary:

Salve regina, Mater misericordiae, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra salve.

Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae.

Ad te suspiramus, gementes et fientes, in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium
ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Or:

Into his joy, the Lord has received you,

Virgin, God-bearer, Mother of Christ.

You have beheld the King in his beauty, Mary, daughter of Israel,

You have made answer for the creation to the redeeming will of God.

Light, fire and life, divine and immortal,

Joined to our nature you have brought forth,

That to the glory of God the Father,

Heaven and earth might be restored.