

An evening service using material from Prayer at Night by Revd Jim Cotter, with the closing prayer from the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of the Province of New Zealand Aotearoa.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Angels guard us through the night  
**and quieten the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide  
**to lead us to peace and to glory.**

Be alert stand firm in the faith; be valiant and strong. Let everything you do be done in love.

Our help is in the name of eternal God,  
**who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and 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 Unicorn, my Guide upon the Way.

Hear the wisdom of Jesus:

Abide in my love:

**Kyrie eleison.**

Love your enemies.

**Christie eleison.**

Love one another as I have loved you:

**Christie eleison.**

Above all, love God with the whole of your being:

**Kyrie eleison.**

O God of Forgiveness, we contemplate you .....  
You pour out your life blood in love for us,  
You pursue us and disturb us and accept us,  
You meet our sin and pain with the gift of a costly and infinite  
enduring, overcoming evil with good.  
O God of forgiveness, we contemplate you .....

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips  
**That our mouths may proclaim your praise**  
Let us worship the God of Love:

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

#### **PSALM**

**Light of Light, you have searched me out and know me.  
You know where I am and where I go,  
You see my thoughts from afar.  
You discern my paths and my resting places,  
You are acquainted with all my ways.  
Yes, and not a word comes from my lips  
But you, O God, have heard it already.  
You are in front of me and you are behind me,  
You have laid your hand on my shoulder.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
So great that I cannot follow it.  
Where shall I go from your Spirit,  
Where shall I flee from your Presence?  
If I climb to the heavens you are there:  
If I descend to the depths of the earth you are there also.  
If I spread my wings towards the morning,  
And fly to the uttermost shores of the sea,  
Even there your hand will lead me,  
And your right hand will hold me.  
If I should cry to the darkness to cover me,  
And the night to enclose me,  
The darkness is no darkness to you,  
And the night is as clear as the day.  
For you have created every part of my being,  
Cell and tissue, blood and bone.  
You have woven me in the womb of my mother;  
I will praise you so wonderfully am I made.  
Awesome are your deeds and marvellous are your works.  
You know me to the very core of my being;  
nothing in me was hidden from your eyes  
when I was formed in silence and secrecy,  
in intricate splendour in the depths of the earth.  
Even as they were forming you saw my limbs,  
each part of my body shaped by your finger.  
How deep are your thoughts to me, Oh God,  
How great is the sum of them.**

**Were I to count them they are more in number  
than the grains of sand upon the sea shore –  
and still I would know nothing about you –  
yet still would you hold me in the palm of your hand.**

*Psalm 139 vs 1- 18.*

## **READING**

Christ reigns! He disarmed the principalities and powers, he triumphed over evil, pain and death. He is with us always to the end of time.

**HYMN** (can be said or sung)

**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,  
Fulfil 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 transfiguring us,  
Thanksgiving in eternity,  
All praise, beloved Trinity.**

*(attributed to St Ambrose (340 – 397); trans J M Neale)*

## **PRAYERS**

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,  
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.  
Keep me, O God, as an apple of an eye:  
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

***ANTIPHON TO THE NUNC DIMITTIS***

Alleluia. The pioneer of our salvation has triumphed through suffering and death, alleluia. The first born among many sisters and brothers has led the way into the presence of God, alleluia, alleluia.

***NUNC DIMITTIS***

**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**

Kyries eleison  
**Christie Eleison**  
Kyries eleison

***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

**Eternal Spirit,  
Life-Giver, Pain Bearer, Love-Maker,  
Source of all that is and 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 to great to endure,  
spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil,  
free us.  
For your reign in the glory  
of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
For it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.  
Let us bless the Life-Giver, the Pain-Bearer, the Love-Maker,  
Let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.  
May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,  
Glorified and exalted above all for ever.

***O LIVING GOD***

O living God, in Jesus Christ you were laid in the tomb at this evening hour, and so 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 our last day our dying may be done well and that we live in you for ever.

*In the prayer that follows remember others in your hearts or aloud in the spaces between the petitions.*

Divine Lover, so fill me with yourself that I may be all love.  
Transform my self-centredness in your penetrating love and compassion.

In the power of your love dwelling in me, may I now radiate

Love ....

Compassion ....

Joy ....

Peace ....

Within this radiation of love I place:

my family ....

My friends ....

My colleagues ....

those who have trusted me with their secrets ....

those whom I love and like .....

those who I cannot yet like ....

those who are my enemies ....  
those to whom are entrusted power,  
influence, decision .....

those in trouble ... sorrow .... anxiety .... Illness ...

those who are jubilant ....

those who are quietly contented ....

those who are dying ....

those who have died ...

all humankind ...

all creation....

Divine Lover, whom the heavens adore, may the whole earth  
worship you, all tongues confess you, all people obey you, and  
all your friends love and serve you in unity, trust and peace.

### ***A time for fellowship follows.***

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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.

**THE GRACE**

**The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion in the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always.**