

# Compline : Night Prayer on Wednesdays

*Jim Cotter : Prayer at Night, Sheffield, Cairns  
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## **The Gathering ...**

### Welcome and introduction

*From our cycle of prayer for this dispersed  
worshipping community: Tonight's Office Prayer is  
offered for*

- *The Nene Crossing Benefice in the  
Peterborough Diocese*
- *and for the Truro Diocese*

The angels of God 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 the eternal God  
**who is making the heavens  
and the earth.**

## **Hymn**

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you,  
you alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship you.

I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy,  
you alone are the real joygiver,  
and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and you are my brother,  
even though you are a King,  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything.

*Text and music : Martin Nystrom 1983  
(HON Liturgical 142)*

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.

## **Words of love and penitence...**

Hear the wisdom of Jesus:  
abide in my love:  
**Kyrie Eleison**

Love your enemies:  
**Christe Eleison**

Love your neighbour as yourself:  
**Kyrie Eleison**

Love one another as I have loved you:  
**Christe Eleison**

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

O God of forgiveness, we contemplate you...

you pour out your lifeblood 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!**

## **Psalmody**

*Psalm 139: 1-14*

**You are in front of me  
and you are behind me,  
you have laid your hand on my shoulder**

Light of light, you have searched me out  
and known 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 fathom 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.

**Glory be to God,  
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever.  
Amen.**

**You are in front of me**

**and you are behind me,  
You have laid your hand on my shoulder**

## **Scripture reading**

Those who drink the water that I shall give  
them shall never thirst: it will become in them  
a bubbling spring, welling up to eternal life.

*John 4: 14*

## **Responsory**

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 the apple of an eye:  
**hide me under the shadow of your  
wings.**

## **Responsory Song**

Jesus, ever-flowing fountain,  
give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer  
there is joy no tongue can tell.

Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty,  
drink the water I will give.  
If you knew what gift I offer,  
you would come to me and live

Jesus, ever-flowing fountain,  
give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer  
there is joy no tongue can tell.

*Text: Sisters of the order of S. Benedict  
Music: 'Come to Me' © Kevin Mayhew Ltd.  
(HON Liturgical 391)*

## **Intercession...**

*..... intercession.... Bringing to mind those whom we  
pray for and holding them in God's love..., bringing  
the needs of the world, the church, and those who  
have no-one to pray for them...*

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive them  
that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### ***Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)***

**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**

**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 forever.  
Amen.**

**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**

### ***Blessing and departure***

**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.  
Amen.**

**Watch between us dear God,  
when we are absent from one another. Amen.**

**Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,  
may we know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.**

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

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from  
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

**Amen**