

# Compline : Night Prayer

## On Sunday

*Jim Cotter : Prayer at Night, Sheffield, Cairns  
Publications, 1991*

### The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

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

- *the priest, clergy team, people and  
community of The Houston Priory of*
- *and for the Oxford Diocese.*

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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.**

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares  
for you. People of God, be sober, be watchful:  
your adversary the devil as a roaring lion  
prowls about, seeking someone to devour;  
whom withstand, steadfast in the faith.

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

### Song / hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me, and rest.  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon My breast"  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad.  
I found in him a resting place  
and he has made me glad

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down, and drink, and live"  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life giving stream  
my thirst was quenched,  
my soul revived  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light.  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise  
and all thy day be bright"  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my Star, my Sun  
and in that Light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done

*Text: Horatius Bonar  
Music: 'Kingsfold', Trad, adapted RVW*

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...

We have wounded your love:  
**O God, heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness:  
**Light of the world, transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home:  
**Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

O God of Joy, we rejoice in you...

You run to meet us like a welcoming friend,  
you laugh with us in the merriment of heaven,  
you feast with us at the great banquet,  
O God of Joy, we rejoice in 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***

**Lord, you are full of forgiveness  
and grace**

From the deep places of my soul  
I praise you, O God:  
I lift up my heart and glorify your holy name.

From the deep places of my soul  
I praise you, O God:  
How can I forget all your goodness  
towards me?

You forgive all my sin,  
you heal all my weakness,  
you rescue me from the brink of disaster,  
you crown me with mercy and compassion.

You satisfy my being with good things,  
so that my youth is renewed like an eagle's.

You fulfil all that you promise,  
justice for all the oppressed.  
You made known your ways to Moses  
and all the people saw your deeds.

You are full of forgiveness and grace  
endlessly patient, faithful in love,  
you do not haunt us with our sins,  
nor nurse grievances against us.

You do not repay evil with evil,  
for you are greater than our sins.  
As vast as the heavens are  
in comparison with the earth,  
so great is your love to those who trust you.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far do you fling our sins from us,  
Just as parents are merciful to their children,  
so are you merciful and kind towards us.

For you have triumphed  
over the power of death,  
and draw us to your presence  
with songs of joy.

We hear the echo of your angels praising you,  
and the whole communion of your saints,  
those who have walked in your narrow ways,  
and heard the voice of your yearning,  
whose food is to do your will,  
and in whom you take great delight.

From the widest bounds of the universe  
to the depths of my very being,  
the whispers and cries of joy  
vibrate to a shining glory,  
O God, our beginning and our end.

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

**Lord, you are full of forgiveness  
and grace**

## ***Scripture reading***

*“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

*Matthew 11: 28-30*

*Taken from the Eucharistic readings for the day from the Anglican lectionary*

## ***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.**

## ***Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Cantic)***

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

## ***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.**

## ***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.**

**O God,  
the Source of the whole world's gladness  
and the bearer of its pain,  
may your unconquerable joy  
rest at the heart  
of all our trouble and distress.**

**Be present, Living Christ, within us,  
your dwelling place and home,  
that all places may be ones 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.**

**O God of love and mercy, grant us,  
with all your people, rest and peace.**

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

**Amen**

**Goodnight ....**