

# Compline : Night Prayer On Fridays

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

### Welcome and introduction

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

- *the church family of the S. Briavel's  
Congregational Church in Gloucester*
- *and for the Worcester 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.**

Jesus said to his disciples, were you not able  
to stay awake for one hour? Keep watch, all  
of you, and pray that you will not fail in time  
of testing.

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

## **Hymn**

Belovèd, let us love:  
love is of God;  
in God alone hath love  
its true abode.

Belovèd, let us love:  
for they who love,  
they only, are his sons,  
born from above.

Belovèd, let us love:  
for love is rest,  
and he who loveth not  
abides unblest.

Belovèd, let us love:  
in love is light,  
and he who loveth not,  
dwelleth in night.

Belovèd, let us love:  
for only thus  
shall we behold that God  
who loveth us.

*Text: Horatius Bonar, based on 1 John 4:7  
Music: 'Song 46' Orlando Gibbons  
(HON Liturgical 162)*

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...**

O God of Holiness,  
we tremble in your presence...  
you show us how far we have wandered  
in a land that is waste;  
you face us with the truth of our lack of love;  
you uncover the layers of our illusions;  
you pierce us with the sword that heals;  
you embrace us with a purging fire;  
you refuse to let us go.  
O God of Holiness,  
we tremble in your presence....

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**

Out of the depths  
I have called to you, O God:  
O God of compassion, hear my voice.  
Open your heart to me,  
my cry wells within me.  
If you keep account of my sins, I cannot stand.  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
your way is my life.

I wait for you, my God, my soul waits for you.  
I wait with my heart, I hope for your word.  
I look for you  
as a watchman looks for the morning.  
more I say than a watchman for the morning.  
For you will fulfil your promise to rescue me,  
you will free me from the grip of evil.  
I put my trust in you,  
O God of mercy and compassion.

When God takes us home from our exile,  
we shall wake from our dream and live again.  
We shall sing and laugh for joy;  
the whole world will acclaim God's wonders.  
O God, you will do great things for us,  
and we shall rejoice and praise your name.

Take us home, bring us to life,  
like rivers in the desert  
when the first rains fall.

We go on our way sadly,  
with tears sowing seeds.  
We shall return with joy,  
with gladness bearing our sheaves.

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

## **Scripture reading**

Therefore, my sisters and brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*Philippians 4:1*

## **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 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.**

## **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.

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of  
God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the  
warmth of God, be among us and between us,  
now and always.

Amen

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

**Amen**

Goodnight ....