

# Ebba Compline

## Seventh Day of Christmas

### The Gathering ...

#### Welcome and introduction

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

- *The Box River Benefice in the S. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese*
- *and for the Blackburn Diocese.*



And I said to the man  
who stood at the gate of the year:  
“Give me a light  
that I may tread safely into the unknown.”  
And he replied:  
“Go out into the darkness  
and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way.”  
So I went forth, and finding the hand of God,  
trod gladly into the night.  
And he led me towards the hills and the  
breaking of day in the lone East.

*‘God Knows’, Minnie Louise Haskin*

✠ We begin by making the sign of the Cross

### Preparation

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone:  
my hope comes from him.

Come I this night to the Father,  
come I this night to the Son,  
come I to the Holy Spirit powerful:  
come I this night to God.  
Come I this night with Christ,  
come I with the Spirit of kindness.  
Come I to Thee, Jesus.  
Jesus shelter me.

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

Open now our hearts to you,  
and fill us with the peace  
that only you can give,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Carol

O little town on Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all the earth!  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today!  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Text: Phillips Brooks  
Music: English Trad  
(STF 213)*

## **Psalmody for the day**

*Psalm 127 1-3*

Unless the Lord builds the house, \*  
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord keeps the city,\*  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil,  
for he gives his beloved sleep.

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## **Scripture reading**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

*John 1 : 1-4, 16  
Taken from the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for today*

## **Responsory**

We will lie down and sleep.  
**We wake again,  
because the Lord sustains us.**

By day the Lord directs his love;  
**at night his song is with us –  
a prayer to the God of our lives.**

Be strong and take heart,  
**all you who hope in the Lord.**

## **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...*

May God be in our sleep;  
may Christ be in our dreams.  
May the Spirit be in our repose,  
in our thoughts, in our hearts,  
in our souls, always,  
may the Sacred Three dwell.

May the Father of heaven  
have care of our souls,  
his loving arm about our bodies  
through each slumber and sleep of our lives

## **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)**

**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 be 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,  
world without end.  
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**

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

The Son of God be shielding us from harm,  
the Son of God be shielding us from ill,  
the Son of God be shielding us with power.  
The Son of God be shielding us this night.

Sleep, O sleep in the calm of each calm.  
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.  
Sleep, O sleep in the love of all loves.  
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ  
go with us,  
wherever we may wander,  
may he guide us through the wilderness,  
protect us through the storm.  
May he bring us back rejoicing,  
at the wonders he has shown us,  
may he bring us back, rejoicing,  
into a bright new dawn.**

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

**Amen**