

# Compline : Night Prayer on Thursday **O SAPIENTA**

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

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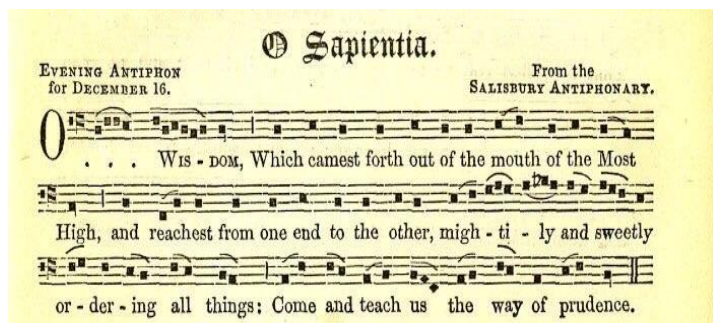


## **The Gathering ...**

### Welcome and introduction

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

- the priests and church family and  
community of S. Matthias & George,  
Astwood Bank in the S. Briavel's  
Congregational Church in the Gloucester  
Diocese*
- and for the Manchester Diocese.*



**O Sapientia.**  
EVENING ANTIPHON  
FOR DECEMBER 16. From the  
SALISBURY ANTIPHONARY.

Wis - dom, Which camest forth out of the mouth of the Most  
High, and reachest from one end to the other, migh - ti - ly and sweetly  
or - der - ing all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

## **Sonnet for O Sapientia**

I cannot think unless I have been thought,  
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.  
I cannot teach except as I am taught,  
Or break the bread except as I am broken.  
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,  
O Light within the light by which I see,  
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,  
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,  
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,  
O Memory of time, reminding me,  
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,  
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,  
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,  
Come to me now, disguised as everything.

*Fr. Malcolm Guite*

[O Sapientia an Advent Antiphon | Malcolm Guite  
\(wordpress.com\)](#)

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.**

Pray in the power of the Spirit. Keep watch  
and persevere, and remember all God's  
people.

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

## **Song**

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon', we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that day.

Prophet voices loudly crying,  
Making pathways clear,  
Glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
Calling all to hear.  
Through their message – challenged, shaken –  
Hearts awaken:  
God is near!

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready  
for the Lord'

*Text: Revd. Mark Earey  
Music: 'Angel Voices' Edwin George Monk  
STF 165*

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...**

Loving God, close your eyes to our sins,  
**We who have wounded your love.**

Refine us with the flame of your Spirit:  
**Cleanse us with springs of living water.**

Save us with words of forgiveness and peace:  
**make us whole, steadfast in spirit.**

Broken are our bones, yet you can heal us,  
**and we shall leap for joy  
and dance again.**

O God of Love, we adore you ...  
You transfigure our disfigured faces,  
you strive with our resistant clay,  
you bring out of our chaos, harmony.  
O God of Love, we adore 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**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in time of trouble.  
Therefore we shall not be afraid,  
even though the earth be moved,  
even though the mountains should crumble  
and fall into the sea,  
even though the waters should foam and rage,  
assault the cliffs and make them shudder.

You are for us the God of the powers,  
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

There is a river  
whose streams make glad the city of God.  
Here is God's dwelling place  
and it will stand firm.  
God's rescue dawns like the morning light,  
God's voice echoes through every land.  
When the powerful nations panic and totter,  
and the whole world comes crashing down,

You are for us the God of the powers,  
a safe stronghold, the God of all peoples.

They who dwell in the shelter  
of the Most High,  
who abide under the shadow of the Almighty,  
say to our God,  
you are my refuge and stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.

You set me free from the snare of the hunter,  
and from evil's destroying curse.  
You cover me with your wings,  
And I shall be safe under your feathers.

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

## **Scripture reading**

*Isaiah 40: 3-5*

A voice cries, in the wilderness prepare the way of Yahweh: make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of Yahweh shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

## **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)**

**Come, O God, and visit us in peace;  
that we may rejoice in your presence  
with a perfect heart.**

**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.**

**Come, O God, and visit us in peace;  
that we may rejoice in your presence  
with a perfect heart.**

## **Intercession...**

*Bidding prayers will be offered*

### **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.

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, Life-Giver, Pain Bearer,  
Love Maker, be with us now and always.

Amen

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

**Amen**