

Compline : Night Prayer in Eastertide

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

The Gathering ...

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

- the Priest, clergy, church family, and
community, of S. Margaret of Antioch,
Cliffe, in the Canterbury Diocese
- and for the Gloucester 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.**

Hymn

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.

Should not we thy sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

*Text: George unt Smyttan and Francis Pott
Music: Aus Der Tiefe, from Nurnbergisches Gesangbuch
(HON New Anglican Edition 145)*

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

Psalmody

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.

For you know how fragile we are,
that we are made of the dust of the earth.

Our days are like the grass,
they bloom like the flowers of the field:
the wind blows over them and they are gone,
and no-one can tell where they stood.

Only your merciful goodness endures;
age after age you act justly
towards all who hold on to your covenant,
who take your words to heart and fulfil them.

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

Scripture reading

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as
Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw
heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending
on him like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son,
whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,
and he was in the wilderness forty days, being
tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals,
and angels attended him.

Mark 1: 9-13

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

If you would enter
into the wilderness
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has travelled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what this journey is for.

It's true that you may need
to do some crumbling,
yes.
That some things
you have protected
may want to be
laid bare,
yes.
That you will be asked
to let go
and let go,
yes.

But listen.
This is what a desert is for.

I tell you,
though may be hard
to see it now,
this is where
your greatest blessing
will find you.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our
names

*Beloved
Beloved
Beloved*

I tell you,
this is where you will receive
your life again.

*Jan Richardson, Circle of Grace, Wanton Gospeller Press,
Florida, 2015*

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)

**For their sake I consecrate myself,
that they also may be
consecrated in truth**

**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.**

**For their sake I consecrate myself,
that they also may be
consecrated in truth**

Intercession...

Bidding prayers may 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.

One of the following prayers may be said ...

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