

# 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 Cantic)**

**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 ....*