

Compline : Night Prayer during Lent S. Chad

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

S. Chad was a pupil of S. Aidan at Lindisfarne in the 7th Century, eventually becoming bishop of Northumbria, largely due to the impatience of the King, who could not wait for the designated bishop, Wilfrid, to return from France. When Wilfrid finally did return, he made no attempt to regain his position, but Chad, when the irregularity of the situation was noted by the then Archbishop Theodore, in humility, stepped down. Theodore was impressed by this graciousness and made him Bishop of Mercia. The plague was very prominent at this time, and Chad became known for his wisdom and gentleness in difficult situations

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

- the clergy, church family, and community, of The Bridge Church Redditch, LEP in the Worcester Diocese and the Birmingham Methodist District
- and for the S. Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese

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Collect for S. Chad

Almighty God,
from the first fruits of the English nation
who turned to Christ,
you called your servant Chad
to be an evangelist and bishop
of his own people:
give us grace so to follow
his peaceable nature,
humble spirit and prayerful life,
that we may truly commend to others
the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

Speak in the stillness, God we pray,
come to our hearts and meet us here.
Bring us your peace for each new day
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

We speak as though we have not heard
and live as if we do not know
your love in Christ, the living Word
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

When, in the anxious rush of days,
we our hold on faith, and you,
reclaim us with your calm embrace
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

Lift us to see with heaven's eyes.
We long to soar on eagles' wings
as we press on to claim your prize
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

So may we be renewed in love,
held and sustained by you alone.
Strengthened by you that we may prove
a gift of grace to earth from heaven

*Text: Gareth Hill
Music: 'Vision' Roger Mayor
(STF 511)*

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

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove
the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease
to do evil, learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the
oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23: 12

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

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