

A Service of Night Prayer

Adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

At the ringing of a bell, the people stand.

Approach

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.

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Silence

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the †eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Confession

Dear God,

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.

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Invocation Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.
Let us worship the God of love.

Reading

Do not ask anxiously, What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What shall we wear? The whole world runs after such things. Set your heart and mind on God's commonwealth and justice first, and all the rest will come to you as well. So do not be anxious about tomorrow. Today has enough problems of its own; tomorrow can look after itself.

Matthew 6:31-34

Prayers

We pray to you in peace, O God, offering our hopes and longings for your Church, your world, your people and your creation.

The intercessor reads from the prayer cards, pausing for the refrain by saying,
Loving God, hear our prayers.

Musical notation for the first refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho-ly name." The music ends with a double bar line.

Musical notation for the second refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in-to life." The music ends with a double bar line.

When all cards have been read, the Intercessor concludes with this prayer

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, †Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

**I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**

**Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
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.**

Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.
It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been
done; let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own
lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your
peace enfold us,

all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**



The Blessing

Closing



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