

THURSDAY, 27th August, 2020 - NEW ZEALAND COMPLINE

(Lighted candle)

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 labour 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.

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 most holy and beloved,

My Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright Evening Star.

We repent the wrongs we have done.

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 in praise, in deed and in truth.

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.

Psalm 4 ... read by one of those present

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world we pray

That you with love and lasting light

Would guard us through the hours of night.

O wisest Guide, grant all we ask,

Fulfill in us your holy task,

Surround us with your love and care,

And lead us on, your life to share.

All praise to God, sustaining us,

Redeeming and transforming us;

Thanksgiving in eternity;

All praise, beloved Trinity.

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 your eye;
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.

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 for ever. Amen.

Prayers and intercessions (open to all to pray briefly/name names to pray for)

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever.
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

Poem: "And that will be heaven " read by leader ...

"Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face.. " 1 Corinthians 13: 12

and that will be heaven ...

and that will be heaven

*at last the first unclouded
seeing*

to stand like the sunflower

turned full face to the sun drenched

with light in the still centre

held while the circling planets

hum with an utter joy

seeing and knowing

at last in every particle

*seen and known and not turning
away*

never turning away

again.

Evangeline Paterson (1928 – 2000)

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

Amen

(adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book - July 2016)