

## ***Evening Prayer – from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer***

*The Office is set out so that the responses printed in bold can be said by those sharing the Office with you.*

### ***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 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 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 thou, most holy and beloved, my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star.

We repent the wrongs we have done:

### ***Silence.***

We have wounded your love.

**O God, hear 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,

**from this time forward and forevermore.**

*Psalm: Psalm 4, or the Psalms as appointed in the Lectionary*

Answer me when I call, O God, for you are the God of justice.

**You set me free when I am hard-pressed: be gracious to me now and hear my prayers.**

Men and women, how long will you turn my glory to my shame? How long will you love what is worthless and run after lies?

**Know that God has shown me such wonderful kindness: when I call out in prayer, God hears me.**

Tremble, admit defeat, and sin no more. Look deep into your heart before you sleep and be still.

**Bring your gifts, just as you are, and put your trust in God. Many are asking, Who can make us content?**

The light of your countenance has gone from us, O God. Yet you have given my heart more gladness than those whose corn and wine and oil increase.

**I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for in you alone, O God, do I dwell unafraid.**

**Glory to God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.**

### ***The Lessons:***

*From the lectionary readings, as appointed, or the following:*

***Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (John 8:12 NRSV)***

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**Prayers:**

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.**

***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.***

*The Song of Simeon (adapted):*

*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 your 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 it was in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.*

**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.**

**Prayers:**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. 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 forever.**

**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 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.**

**O God of love and mercy, grant us, with all your people, especially at this time, rest and peace. Amen.**