

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) for
the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin
Mary - led by Sandra Dreyer
The responder on behalf of all is Sylvia
Williams

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.

*A period of silence for reflection on the
past day may follow.*

*The following or other suitable words of
penitence may be used*

Most merciful God, we confess to you, be-
fore the whole company of heaven and
one another, that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed and in what we
have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal
us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in
Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning
is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia.

The following or another suitable hymn
may be said or sung

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally.

The Word of God
Psalmody - One or more of the following
psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my
righteousness; ♦
**you set me at liberty when I was in trou-
ble; have mercy on me and hear my
prayer.**

2 How long will you nobles dishonour
my glory; ♦
**how long will you love vain things and
seek after falsehood?**

3 But know that the Lord has shown me
his marvellous kindness; ♦
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
**commune with your own heart upon your
bed, and be still.**

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many that say, 'Who will
show us any good?' ♦
**Lord, lift up the light of your countenance
upon us.**

7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
**more than when their corn and wine and
oil increase.**

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
**for it is you Lord, only, who make me
dwell in safety.**

Psalm 91

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the
Most High ♦
**and abides under the shadow of the Al-
mighty,**

2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and
my stronghold, ♦
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

3 For he shall deliver you from the snare
of the fowler ♦
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with his wings and
you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦
**his faithfulness shall be your shield and
buckler.**

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦
nor of the sickness that destroys at noon-day.

7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦
yet it shall not come near you.

8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦
to see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦
and the Most High your stronghold,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; ♦
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦
I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Matthew 1:18-23 read by Geraldine Nurney

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,

yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

“Joseph, son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.

For it is through the Holy Spirit

that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,

because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil

what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

Reflection

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia. Keep me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦ your word has been fulfilled.
 - 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦ which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
 - 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦ and the glory of your people Israel.
- Luke 2.29-32

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen. Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

Prayers led by Jill Fitzpatrick

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say with Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Your prophet of old foretold a day when a virgin would conceive and bear a son who would be called God-with-us. Help us to look forward to your deliverance and to seek the fullness of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say with Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Your prophet of old foretold a day when a virgin would conceive and bear a son who would be called God-with-us. Help us to look forward to your deliverance and to seek the fullness of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Saviour. Help every Christian person to be open to your word and obedient to your will.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang your praise, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.' Help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Mary bore a son of David's line, a king whose reign would never end. Bless all the nations of the world with Christ's gift of peace.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

The child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature in the home of Mary and Joseph. Strengthen our homes and families, and keep under your protection all those whom we love.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

At the foot of the cross of Christ stood his mother, and from the cross she received his lifeless body in her arms. Give comfort and healing to all who suffer and all who watch the suffering of those they love.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

The apostle John saw a vision of a woman in heaven, robed with the sun. Bring us with all those who have died in the faith of

Christ to share the joy of heaven with Mary and all the saints.

Let us pray for all who have died...those recently departed: Sheila Sheath

We pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs this month:

Harry Sidebottom, Gladys Bridgland, Jamie Hiscock, Carolyn Horner, Pat Hodges, Ivy Fawcett, Michael Kilby, Iris Weeks, Peggy Richardson, Geoffrey Pynegar, Michael Wright, George Maskell, Olive Boulton, Michael Brown, Richard Thampson, James Little.

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.
Holy is your name.

Almighty and everlasting God, your handmaid Mary magnified your name and rejoiced in your saving love: trusting in that same love, we ask all these our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Lord of life and love, be with us. Stay with us. Guide us towards you and each other.
Amen

For people of our nation

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you. In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders, Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers. Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve. Lord Jesus Christ, in these challenging and fearful days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. **Amen.**

We keep a moment of silence.....

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the

pattern of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Silence may be kept.

Visit our homes, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from them all the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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 those who 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.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
So do we look for you, O Christ.

Come with the dawning of the day
And make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**