

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) - on the eve of the Feast of Epiphany- led by Mary Tanner
The responder on behalf of all is Fr. Rodney

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, before 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 trouble; 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 Almighty,

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 2:1-12- read by Wendy Curto

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,

in the days of King Herod,

behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

When King Herod heard this,

he was greatly troubled,

and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,

He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said,

“Go and search diligently for the child.

When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.”

After their audience with the king they set out.

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house

they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another
way.

This is the word of the Lord
[Thanks be to God](#)

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 Cantic

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 Piers Crowther

Led by the star, the wise men found and
worshipped the Christ Child. Led by faith,
we too have found the Christ, and in this
Service we worship him.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ shine radiantly
throughout the Church, so that she may
unite her members in following the exam-
ple of the wise men, and kneel and worship
Jesus.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ shine with wisdom
in the Church in the world so that as we
continue to seek to understand what the
Holy Spirit is asking of us.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ overcome the dev-
astation and fear caused by the Covid 19
pandemic, so that people will care for each
other with the respect which the wise men
showed to the Christ Child and his Mother.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ dispel the evil of
war, religious persecution and corruption
in governments, so that people can live in
respectful peace everywhere.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ shine mercifully on
the peoples of the Holy Land so that people
of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths can
live together with respect, leading to the
peaceful coexistence of Israel and Pales-
tine, with Jerusalem as the city of peace for
everyone.
Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

May the light of Christ shine eternally with
joy upon our departed parishioners and
family members, and especially those who
died alone and in fear during 2021.

We pray for those recently departed: Arch-
bishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

We pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur this month:

Jack Travers, Evelyn Waghorn, Eleftheria Corfield, William Butler, Hilary Wood, Cecille Mallinson, Lily Collins, Malcolm Dreyer, Richard Dyke, Jane Barker, Olaf Phillips, Doris Bird, Gilbert French, Rosaline Beeny, William Fawcett, Stephen Barker, Isoline Vaughan, Hylda Reynolds, Kathleen Wood, Sheila Maugham, Sylvia Smith, Prudence Bilsby

Lord hear us....**Lord graciously hear us**

God of love, may your justice and the fullness of your peace flourish in our time, so that all people may pay homage to you
Lord hear us....**Lord graciously hear us**

We keep a moment of silence.....

The Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.**

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.**