



Night Prayer Across the Old Hills Malvern Parishes

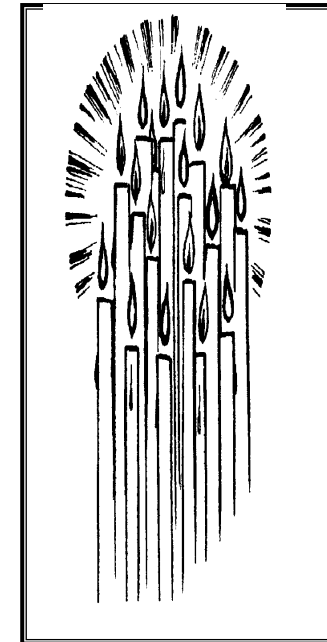


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Please do not take away from the church - thank you

PREPARATION

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

All: Amen.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: who made heaven and earth.

Silence

CONFESSION

Minister: Loving God, close your eyes to our sins,

All: we who have wounded your love.

Minister: Refine us with the flame of your Spirit:

All: cleanse us with springs of living water.

Minister: Save us with words of forgiveness and peace:

All: make us whole, steadfast in spirit.

Minister: Broken are our bones, yet you can heal us,

All: and we shall leap for joy and dance again

Minister: 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 secrets 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 truth.

THE CONCLUSION

Minister: In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All: for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Minister: Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All: for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

Minister: As the night watch looks for the morning,

All: so do we look for you, O Christ.

**All: Be present, Spirit of God,
and renew us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied by the changes and
chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
in the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
our Guardian and our Guide.**

Minister: 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.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS

A time of quiet prayer.

Minister: Eternal Spirit,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
Minister: The Hallowing of your Name
All: **echo through the universe.**
Minister: The Way of your Justice
All: **be followed by the peoples of the world.**
Minister: Your Heavenly Will
All: **be done by all created beings.**
Minister: Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom
All: **sustain our hope and come on earth.**

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

Minister: Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and
open our lips
All: **that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**
Minister: Let us worship the God of Love:
All: **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PSALM

Light of Light, you have searched me out and known
me.

**You know where I am and where I go,
you see my thoughts from afar.**

You discern my paths and my resting places,
you are acquainted with all my ways.

**Yes, and not a word comes from my lips,
but you, O God, have heard it already.**

You are in front of me and you are behind me,
you have laid your hand on my shoulder.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so great that I cannot fathom it.**

Where shall I go to flee from your Presence?
If I climb to the heavens you are there:
if I descend to the depths of the earth, you are
there also.

**If I spread my wings towards the morning,
and fly to the uttermost shores of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me, and your right
hand will hold me.**

If I should cry to the darkness to cover me,
and the night to enclose me,
the darkness is no darkness to you,
and the night is as clear as day.

**For you have created every part of my being,
cell and tissue, blood and bone.**

You have woven me in the womb of my mother;
I will praise you, so wonderfully am I made.

**Awesome are your deeds and marvellous are your
works.**

You know me to the very core of my being;
nothing in me was hidden from your eyes
when I was formed in silence and secrecy,
in intricate splendour in the depths of the earth.

**Even as they were forming you saw my limbs,
each part of my body shaped by your finger.**

How deep are your thoughts to me, O God,
how great is the sum of them.

**Were I to count them they are more in number
than the grains of sand upon the sea shore -
and still I would know nothing about you -
yet still would you hold me in the palm of your
hand.**

Psalm 139.1-18 Paraphrased by Jim Cotter

Minister: **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.**

BIBLE READING

Minister: Into your hand, O God, I commend my spirit,
All: **for you have redeemed me, O God of truth
and love.**

Minister: Keep me, O God, as the apple of your eye:
All: **hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

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

All: **Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of
every people;
A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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.**

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