

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 9th July 2021

Philip Stopford's Do Not Be Afraid, sung by Ecclesium Choir: Stopford's beautiful arrangement of the poem which became a song of worship and is based on the biblical promise of God's faithfulness from Isaiah 42:1 – 2

"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine..."

Preparation

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.

The Examen

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

Once again, I return to "Reimagining the Ignatian Examen: Fresh Ways to Pray from Your Day" by Mark E. Thibodeaux and using an abbreviated form of one of his Examen's.

"I address God spontaneously regarding the things, people, and moments for which I am most grateful.

I say, "Thank you, God, for . . ." and I just let my mind drift from one gift of my life to the next, without consciously steering my thoughts one way or another.

I take note of what I find my heart and soul are saying to God at this moment.

Next, I talk to God about the things, people, and moments about which I feel bad.

I say, "Forgive me, God, for . . ." and I just let myself go.

I listen carefully to what I find my heart and soul are saying to God at this moment.

Finally, I address God regarding the future things, future people, and future moments for which I will need God's help. Thinking about the coming day, I pray, "God, help me with . . ." and I just let myself go.

I attend to what my heart and soul are saying to God at this moment."

We confess our sins to our loving Father, who is always more eager to forgive than we are to seek that forgiveness.

**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 Office Hymn

We listen to the Office Hymn "Lighten Our Darkness" sung by Tenebrae conducted by Nigel Short, arranged by Alexander L'Estrange as a part of his Prayers for Peace.

The Word of God

Ps 4

Refrain: In peace I will lie down and sleep

- 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.

Refrain: In peace I will lie down and sleep

- 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.

Refrain: In peace I will lie down and sleep

Give us each day, O God,
A glad heart and a clear conscience,
That when we come to day's end
We may rest in peace with Christ our Lord.

**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

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8, 9*

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.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

This evening we listen to The Chapel Choir of Trinity Hall Cambridge singing Purcell's setting of this Biblical canticle, and we end it by saying the antiphon together.

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.

Refrain:

**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.**

Prayers

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

The Collect

It is our custom to pray all three collects

... of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

... for Friday evenings

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb
and so hallowed the grave

to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:
give us such sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of your passion,
that when our bodies lie in the dust,
our souls may live with you for ever.

Amen.

... for our Homes

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it 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.
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.**

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Our final piece of music, something from left field this evening. I'm grateful to Manx Radio's Chris Caine, co-present of the *Jumpin' in Jazz* show (Fridays at 9pm) for the nudge: this is the Hilliard Ensemble with the Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek: Tomas Tallis' "O Lord in Thee is all my trust" with an interpretative twist; let it settle in before you walk away. I find it amazing.