



Services of Daily Prayer

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Parish Prayers inspired by Julian of Norwich

Hazelnut theology:

God also showed me a little thing, about the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand; and it was round as a ball. I looked at it, trying to understand it, and thought ‘*What might this be?*’ And I was answered like this: ‘*It is everything that has been made*’. I was amazed that it could last, for I thought it might have collapsed into nothing, it was so little. And a voice spoke inside my thoughts: ‘*It lasts, and ever shall last because God loves it*’. And so everything exists because of the love of God. So in this little thing I saw three lessons. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, and the third is that it is God who keeps it going.

God made it:

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.

You know everything I do.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous – how well I know it.

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered;

I can’t even count them, they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! (*Psalm 139*)

God loves us: Bible Reading

Reflection: Please reflect quietly on the wonder of our God who loves us more than we can imagine, and totally unconditionally

God keeps it going:

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. *(Psalm 23)*

Reflection: *Please reflect quietly on the wonder of our God who provides all of our deepest needs, and knows what we need before we ask*

Prayers for the World, the Parishes and ourselves

Closing Prayers:

**Help me to remember the peace of Your promise,
When all seems dark;
Help me to remember the purity of Your light,
When all seems hopeless;
Help me to remember the comfort of Your words,
When all seems discord;
Help me to remember the harmony of Your creation.
May my conversations be significant,
May my meetings be blessed,
May my path cross the paths of others who love You.
May my path cross the path of others who don't know You.
May my touch be Your touch of infinite gentleness,
May my words be Your words of wisdom,
May my eyes see with your compassion. Amen**

All will be well, and all manner of things will be well.

(Julian of Norwich)

Morning Prayer – Celtic Style

O God, you summon the day to dawn,
You teach the morning to waken the earth,
Great is your name. Great is your love.
For you the valleys shall sing for joy,
great is your name. Great is your love.

The trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Great is your name. Great is your love.
For you the kings of the earth shall bow,
The poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.
Great is your name. Great is your love.
Your love and mercy shall last forever,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.
Great is your name. Great is your love.

Thanksgiving:

If you come in certainty or confusion, in anger or in anguish,
This time is for us.

If you come in silent suffering or hidden sorrow, in pain or promise,
This time is for us.

If you come for your own or another's need, for a private wound or the wound of the world,
This time is for us.

If you come and do not know why, to be here is enough.
This time is for all

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth;
Come now, Christ of the yearning tears;
Come now, Christ of the transforming touch.
This time is for you.

Reading:

**(A) Creator God, we praise you for bright crisp mornings,
For leaves crackling underfoot, and wisps of cloud in a pale sky.**

**(B) We praise you for the night time rain,
For the wind buffeting the city and street lamps reflected in wet pavements**

**(A) We praise you for the season's labours,
For the smell of new-turned earth, and smoking bonfires.**

**(B) We praise you for the season's gifts,
For fruitfulness beyond measure, and time to reflect and remember**

(A&B) Creator God, we praise you.

Prayers

Song:

**You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field
Will clap will clap their hands.
And the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
And you'll go out with joy.**

Ending:

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you
Wherever he may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
Protect you from the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.**

Blessing:

**The love of the faithful creator
The peace of the wounded Healer
The joy of the challenging Spirit
The hope of the Three in One
Surround and encourage you,
Today, tonight and forever.**

Morning Prayer from the Northumbria Community

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Opening sentences:

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I ask:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to seek Him in His temple.

Who is it that you seek?

We seek the Lord our God.

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

Amen. Christ have mercy.

Declaration of faith:

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ his Son.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the three in One.

Canticle:

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ as a shield over-shadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

In the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

Scripture Readings

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Now and forever. Amen**

Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you
Wherever he may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
Protect you from the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Morning Prayer – Theme of Community

Wherever you call us, Lord, our God,

We want to be ready and willing to go.

Whenever you need us, Lord, our God,

We want to be available and attentive.

Whoever turns out to be our neighbour in need,

We want to be happy to serve, without exceptions.

Live within us, Lord our God,

So that we notice with your discernment,

Respond with your compassion,

And speak with your integrity.

In our lives and in our world,

Let your kingdom come. Amen

(Susan Sayers)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I ask you to open my eyes so that I may really see.

Tune my ears so that I may really hear what you are saying to me.

May the many experiences of my senses

Remind me to be aware of others and of all that is around me.

May all that I experience lead me closer to you.

Readings

Finally you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love one another, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never repay one wrong with another or one abusive word with another. Instead repay with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing.

Prayers:

Dear Lord, you know when we fail to love our neighbour;

You know when we retaliate through frustration and anger;

Help each one of us to be prepared to do more, love more, be more,

To shine your glory into one another's lives. Amen

Loving Heavenly Father, we ask you to be at the heart of our community.

We pray your blessing on all the places in Old Moulsham, Moulsham Lodge and Tile Kiln where people meet to have fun, to socialise, to share with one another. Be with the leaders of each group, that they will love and care for the people you have called them to serve. We pray that in each group people will learn to listen to one another, and to really be like Jesus, each one to the other. Amen

Time of open prayer

Celtic rune:

We saw a stranger yesterday – we put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place;
And with the sacred name of the triune God
He blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in our song:
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

Closing prayer:

The joy of this day be yours,
The joy of this week be yours,
The joy of this year be yours,
The joy of the Father be yours,
The joy of the Spirit be yours,
The joy of the Son be yours,
Joy for ever and ever be yours.
The hands of the Father uphold you;
The hands of the Saviour enfold you;
The hands of the Spirit surround you.

**And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Uphold you ever more.**

(David Adam)

Morning Prayers for the Power of the Spirit

God raised Christ from the dead

And enthroned him at the right hand in the heavenly realms.

God put all things in subjection beneath his feet

And gave him as head over all things to the Church.

We died, and our life lies hidden with Christ in God.

We set our minds on things above,

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed,

We too will be revealed with Him in glory

(Ephesians 1:20,23)

Bible Reading

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness

Where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,

Given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

And fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,

And upon the disciples in the upper room.

In your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

Hear our prayer

And make us one in heart and mind

To serve you with joy for ever.

Time of open prayer

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us, and, as a pledge of what is to come,

Has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia *(2 Corinthians 1:22)*

May the Spirit,

Who hovered over the waters when the world was created,

Breathe into you the life He gives.

Amen

May the Spirit,

Who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,

Make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen

May the Spirit,

Who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,

Bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen

Morning Prayer – Theme of Peace

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day.
Thanks be to you, O God, for our coming in safety to this place.
Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose.
The hand of God between us and each hand.
Be the pain of Christ between us and each pain,
The love of Christ between us and each love.

Prayer:

In the midst of hunger and war
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of oppression and tyranny
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of doubt and despair
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of fear and betrayal
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of hatred and death
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of sin and decay
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.
In the midst of death on every side
We celebrate the promise of peace and plenty.

Saying sorry:

Father, forgive me for my unbelief. Forgive me for not trusting completely in you and in your goodness and mercy. Forgive me for not teaching my children better to follow after you in strength and peace. Help me to teach them better now. Lord, grant me strength and peace to face today and be a better follower today than I was yesterday.

Readings

Prayers

for peace in the world, in the community and in our hearts

Time of open prayer

Song:

**Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

Refrain

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving to all men that we receive;
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Closing prayer:

On our hearts and on our houses:

The blessing of God.

In our coming and going:

The peace of God.

In our life and believing:

The love of God.

At our end and new beginning:

The arms of God.

To welcome us and bring us home.

Amen

Franciscan Prayer

We adore you,
Most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
Here and in all your churches throughout the world,
We bless you because by your holy cross
You have redeemed the world.

Come Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful people
And kindle in us the fire of your love.
Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
And blessed be His kingdom now and forever.

Canticle:

You are the holy Lord God; who does wonderful things.
You are strong; you are great; you are the Most High.
You are the almighty King.
You, holy Father, King of heaven and earth.
You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;
You are the good, all good, the highest good,
Lord God living and true.

You are love, you are charity, you are wisdom, you are humility, you are patience, you are beauty, you are meekness, you are security, you are rest.
You are gladness and joy, you are our hope, you are justice,
You are moderation, you are all our riches to sufficiency.

You are beauty, you are meekness, you are the protector,
You are our custodian and defender.
You are strength,
You are refreshment,
You are our hope,
You are our faith,
You are our charity.

You are all our sweetness, you are our eternal life:
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Saviour.

Reading

Prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ,

Who when the world was growing cold to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of your love, raised up blessed Francis, bearing in his body the marks of your passion:
Mercifully grant to us, your people, true penitence and grace to bear the cross for love of you; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Time of open prayer

Blessing:

May God kindle in us the fire of love. **Amen**

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you His peace.

My sisters and brothers, the Lord bless you. Amen

Liturgy of Creation

A. *The creating Father:*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and all was darkness, and God said 'Let there be light'.

And because God said it, there was light.

In the beginning, all was dull, and God painted;

And because God painted, the sky became blue and purple and pink. The grass became green, and flowers and butterflies danced in the drips, and settled like jewels on the earth.

In the beginning, all was unconscious, and God breathed;

And because God breathed, women and men woke up from their sleeping. They breathed of the very life of God, and stood in wonder before the work of God's hands. They beheld the glory of God in all that God had made, and they saw that it was very good.

In the beginning, God created all things,

And God saw that they were good.

At the beginning, God created us

Unique and irreplaceable, loved by God and wanted by God,

Known to God and treasured by God, even before He created us.

In all our new beginnings, God creates something new;

So we will seek God in the freshness of morning, in the colours of creation, and in the warmth of human love.

Father God, King of Creation,

Open our eyes to see your presence,

Our souls to sense your presence,

And our hearts to love your presence

Ever here in your creation and ever beyond it in eternity. Amen

Prayers for a sense of God's presence – round the world and in Old Moulsham, Moulsham Lodge and Tile Kiln

B. The creating son:

In the beginning was the Word.

(from John 1)

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,

And nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness can never extinguish it.

The Word became flesh and made his home among us.

He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Prayers for light in the dark places of our lives, our fears and our community.

C. The creating spirit:

The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters.

Come, Creator Spirit, come. Make within our heart a home

To us your grace celestial give, for as you breathe we move and live.

O well of life, O fire of love, our souls' anointing from above

Our moral foes afar repel, grant us henceforth in peace to dwell.

So to us, if you will guide, no ill shall come, no harm betide.

May we, through the Father, learn and know the Son, and discern you,

For you show both, and thus adore in perfect faith for evermore. Amen

(c 800AD)

Prayers for the Spirit's creativity and blessing

Morning Prayer in the Moravian Tradition

Christ invites us to come to worship:

to rest from the things that are troubling us;

to pray for the needs of those close to us as well as for the needs of the world

to realise what we can offer to others

and so to return into the world to serve.

Let us worship God who reigns over all the earth.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into the presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

The heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land,

Which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep in His hand.

O that today you would listen to His voice!

(Psalm 95:1-7)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we come before you in humble confession. Help us conform our lives to you as the model for holy and righteous living.

Forgive us for living for ourselves.

Forgive us for not being true to you.

Forgive us for not being kind to others.

Forgive us for not sharing your good news with the nations.

God says: *'I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,*

And I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak (Ezekiel 34:16)

Holy Spirit, empower us to accept the grace that our Lord and Saviour,

Jesus Christ, offers us today.

Hear the words of our Lord: *'Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more'*.

Bible Reading

Time of open prayer

As you taught your disciples to pray, so we pray together:

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

Lord awaken us

To your presence with us in each moment.

Lord awaken us

To the suffering of others.

Lord awaken us

To the grace that you have already extended to us.

Lord awaken us.

To see how we can share grace with those around us.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,

Since as members of one body we were called to peace.

Whatever we do in word or deed,

May we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,

Giving thanks through him to God the Father. Amen

Christ, and him crucified

Remain our confession of faith. Amen

Common Worship Morning Prayer

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Song of God's Righteousness:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

Who redeems your life from the pit,

And crowns you with faithful love and compassion;

Who satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses and his words to the children of Israel.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom has dominion over all.

Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word.

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.

Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion;

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

(Psalm 103: 1-7, 19-22)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen

The night has passed and the day lies open before us: let us pray with one heart and mind:

Silence

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen

Psalm

Canticle:

Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace.

Come let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob;

That God may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths.

For the law shall go out from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem

God shall judge between the nations, and shall mediate for many peoples.

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

Neither shall they learn war any more.

O people of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the 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 forever. Amen (Isaiah 2: 3-5)

Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace.

Reading

Response:

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.

Lead me in the paths of your commandments

That I may see the wonders of your law.

Glory to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.

Gospel Canticle:

In your tender compassion, O God,

The dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

Who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets, God promised of old

To save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to his ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.
To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God,
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1: 68-79)**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

In your tender compassion, O God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Prayers

Collect:

Eternal God and Father,
You create and redeem us by the power of your love:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
That we may give ourselves in love and service to one another, and to you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Now and forever. Amen**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, And keep us in eternal life. **Amen**
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Wild Goose Worship – A Wee Worship Book
Morning Liturgy A**

Call to worship

In the beginning
before time, before people,
before the world began

God was

Here and now
among us, beside us
enlisting the people of earth
for the purposes of heaven

God is

In the future
when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfilment

God will be

Not denying the world but delighting in it
not condemning the world, but redeeming it
through Jesus Christ
by the power of the Holy Spirit

God was

God is

God will be

Prayer

Let us pray

In you, gracious God
the widowed find a carer
the orphaned find a parent
the fearful find a friend.

In you,
the wounded find a healer
the penitent find a pardoner
the burdened find a counsellor.

In you,
the miserly find a beggar,
the despondent find a laughter-maker
the legalists find a rule breaker.

In you, Jesus Christ
we meet our Maker
and our match.

And if some need to say 'help me'
and if some need to say 'save me'
and if some need to say 'hold me'
and if some need to say 'forgive me'
then let these be said now
in confidence
by us.

silence

O Christ
in whose heart is both welcome and warning
say to us,
do to us
reveal within us
the things that will make us whole.

And we will wait;
and we will praise you,
Amen

Bible Reading

Hear the Word of God

Our ears are open

A reading from...

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Prayers

Closing Response

For all that God can do within us
for all that God can do without us

Thanks be to God

For all in whom Christ lived before us
For all in whom Christ lives beside us

Thanks be to God

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for where the Spirit wants to send us

Thanks be to God

Listen

Christ has promised to be with us
in the world as in our worship

Amen

We go to serve him.

An Evening Liturgy from the Iona Community

Opening Responses:

Come, Lord Jesus,
You too were tired when day was done;
You met your friends at evening time.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus,
You too enjoyed when nights drew on;
You told your tales at close of day.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus,
You kindled faith when lamps were low;
You opened scriptures, broke the bread,
And shed your light as darkness fell.

Come, Lord Jesus, meet us here.

A time of reflection: Looking at just some of the images of our broken world placed before the altar, how might we bring God's peace into being in our community / world?

Prayer:

Let us pray.
You broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us.

For in Jesus, the smiling Jesus
the story-telling Jesus,
the controversial Jesus
the annoying Jesus
the loving and forgiving Jesus

Your hands touched all, and touched us
Showing how, in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
nor male nor female:

All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you.

You opened our eyes to see how the hands of the rich were empty
And the hearts of the poor were full.

You dared to take the widow's mite
the child's loaves
the babe at the breast,
and in these simple things, to point out the path to your Kingdom.
You said 'Follow me!'

For on our own we could never discover that in Christ there is
neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female.

All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you.

You gave us hands to hold:
Black hands and white hands, African hands and Asian hands,
The clasping hands of lovers,
And the reluctant hands of those who don't believe they are worth holding.
And when we wanted to shake our fist, you still wanted to hold our hand,
Because in Christ there is
neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female.

Here in the company of the neighbour whom we know
And the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn,
We ask to love as Jesus loved.

Make this the place and the time, good Lord,
When heaven and earth merge into one,
And we, in word and flesh, can grasp that in Christ there is
neither Jew nor Gentile
neither male nor female.

All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you. Amen

Reading

Prayers: (after each category, anyone may offer a name of those brought to mind. Each can be followed by a response)

Let us say a prayer for those who need to be remembered tonight:

Those who have made the news headlines today because of what they have done or said:

Those who have been brought to our attention through a meeting or conversation:

Those who are in hospital, in care, or in a place which is strange to them:

Those in whose family, marriage or close relationship, there is stress or a break-up:

Those who are waiting for a birth or a death, or news which will affect their lives:

Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in, and meet the God who believes in them:

Those whose pain or potential we should not forget to share with God tonight:

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer, and will be faithful to your promise to answer us.

When our eyes open again, may they do so, not to end our devotions,
But to expect your Kingdom, for Jesus' sake. **Amen**

Song

Blessing:

May God bless us in our sleep with rest,
In our dreams with vision,
In our waking with a calm mind,
In our soul with the friendship of the Holy Spirit,
This night and every night, and the
Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Evening Prayer from A Wee Worship Book – Celtic Style

Candle 1: I will light a light in the name of the Maker, who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for me.

Candle 2: I will light a light in the name of the Son who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.

Candle 3: I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who encompasses the world and blessed my soul with yearning.

We will light three lights for the Trinity of love: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us; the beginning, the end, the everlasting one. Amen

Song

Reading

Prayers

Song

Blessing:

On our heads and our houses

The blessing of God.

In our coming and going

The peace of God.

In our life believing

The love of God.

At our end and new beginning

The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen

Compline from Common Worship

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 other suitable hymn may be sung.

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;

And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Psalm

At the end of the psalm the following is said or sung

**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

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.

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

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

- 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.**

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

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 may be said.

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.

May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

Amen.