

# Night Prayer

April 22, 2026

John Muir, Naturalist and Writer 1914

<http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/muir&stuck.htm>

*From A New Zealand Prayer Book,  
adapted to include elements of BCP Evening Prayer*

*The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:*

*I lie down in peace and take my rest  
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.*

*Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God.*

## APPROACH

The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**and quieten the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide  
**to lead us to peace and to glory.**

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

**For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep. (psalm 127.3)**

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,  
**who is making the heavens and the earth.**

## CONFESSION

**Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and for our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.**

**O thou, most holy and beloved, our Companion,  
our Guide upon the way, our bright evening star.**

**We repent the wrongs we have done:**

*Silence*

We have wounded your love.

**O God, heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness.

**Light of the world transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home.

**Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

*Leader:* 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 secret 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 in truth. **Amen.**

## INVOCATION

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,  
**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the God of love.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 46

1. GOD is our hope and strength, \* a very present help in trouble.

**2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, \* and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;**

3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell, \* and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

**4 There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God; \* the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.**

5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; \* God shall help her, and that right early.

**6 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; \* but God hath showed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.**

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**8 O come hither, and behold the works of the LORD, \* what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.**

9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world; \* he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.

**10 Be still then, and know that I am God: \* I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.**

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## READINGS

### **First Reading: Azariah 52-59**

Let the earth bless the Lord;

let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, seas and rivers;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, you springs;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, you whales and all that swim in the waters;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord, all wild animals and cattle;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

## **Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-5**

Then the angel\* showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life\* with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants\* will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

### **Hymn (spoken together)**

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

### ***John Muir***

*On a first trip to Yosemite historians note that "he was overwhelmed by the landscape, scrambling down steep cliff faces to get a closer look at the waterfalls, whooping and howling at the vistas, jumping tirelessly from flower to flower." [7] "We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us," and he later wrote. . . . "No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite... The grandest of all special temples of Nature."*

*Historians noted that Scripture helped him understand the origins of the natural world and believed that God was always active in the creation of life and thereby kept the natural order of the world. He saw nature as a great teacher, "revealing the mind of God," a belief which became the central theme of his journeys and the "subtext" of his nature writing.*

### **John Muir quotes:**

*"We all flow from one fountain—Soul. All are expressions of one love. God does not appear, and flow out, only from narrow chinks and round bored wells here and there in favored races and places, but He flows in grand undivided currents,*

*shoreless and boundless over creeds and forms and all kinds of civilizations and peoples and beasts, saturating all and fountainizing all."*

*According to historian Holmes, While living in the mountains, Muir experienced the "presence of the divine in nature," "Every particle of rock or water or air has God by its side leading it the way it should go; The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness; In God's wildness is the hope of the world."*

*"Between every two pine trees there is a door leading to a new way of life."  
— Son of the Wilderness*

*"The sun shines not on us but in us."  
— John of the Mountains*

Silence to prayerfully collect our thoughts

*We share reflections on the day's scripture.*

*What do you notice?*

*What is speaking to you?*

*What difference does it make?*

*John Muir was so inspired by love of God's work in nature. How does nature inspire your life?*

## **PRAYERS**

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

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

**Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep may rest in your peace.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Blessed Creator of the earth and all that inhabits it: We thank you for your prophet John Muir, who rejoiced in your beauty made known in the natural world; and we pray that, inspired by his love of your creation, we may be wise and faithful stewards of the world you have created, that generations to come may also lie down to rest among the pines and rise refreshed for their work; in the Name of the

one through whom you make all things new, Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Preserve us, O God, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in your peace.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord have mercy.

*We offer intercessions and thanksgivings from our heart  
either silently or aloud or in the chat function.*

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: : John Aalto, Donna Boudreau, Debbie Bourne, Evelyn Bourne, Rev. Brett, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, Wallie Cook, Patrick Joseph Crowe, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John and Richard DeNatale, Peggy Downs, David Fieldhouse, Connor Gallagher, Mary Gasson, Kristen Goddard, Michelle Hager, Louise Haldeman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, CJ, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Tim Kelsey, Kevin, Ken Leach, Linda, Kevin MacKenzie, Keith Manville, Mark Martino, Don McCarter, Jen, McMaster, Sara Murphy, Neil, Gayle Gammon Nelson, Steve Newman, Judith Oder, Jim O'Reilly, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, JP Quinn, Rebecca, Tommi-Lee Stella, Trudy, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan, Vicky Wegweiser, Irene Wernick, Kelly, and Alan Wright.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

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

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
**for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**  
Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
**let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.**  
May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,  
**glorified and exalted above all for ever.**

### **Night Prayer**

**Lord,  
it is night.**

**The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.  
It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.**

**The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

**The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no  
peace.**

**The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.  
In your name we pray. Amen.**

## **Sentences to keep us**

Christ be within us to keep us,  
beside us to guard,  
before us to lead,  
behind us to protect,  
beneath us to support,  
above us to bless.

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

## **Final Versicle**

The divine Spirit dwells in us.  
**Thanks be to God.**