

Night Prayer

This service may begin at the [Invocation](#).

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 labour 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.

Silence

E te whānau/My brothers and sisters,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

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,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way,
tāku whetū mārama i te pō / my 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.

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.

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.

Psalm

One of the following, or some other psalm may be said.

Psalm 23

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me:
like a shepherd you guide me.

You lead me to an oasis of green,
to lie down by restful waters.

You refresh my soul for the journey,
and guide me along trusted roads.

The God of justice is your name.
**Though I must enter the darkness of death,
I will fear no evil.**

For you are with me,
your rod and staff comfort me.

You prepare a table before my very eyes,
in the presence of those who trouble me.

You anoint my head with oil,
and you fill my cup to the brim.

Your loving kindness and mercy will meet me
every day of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of my God for ever.

Reading

One of the following or some other passage of scripture is read.

Silence may follow the reading.

Sunday

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. *2 Timothy 1:7*

Hymn

One of the following or some other hymn may be sung.

3

Glory to you, my God, this night,
For all the blessings of the light,
To you, from whom all good does come,
Our life, our health, our lasting home.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed,
Teach me to die, that so I may
Rise glorious at the awful day.

O may I now on you repose,
And may kind sleep my eyelids close,
Sleep that may me more vigorous make
To serve my God when I awake.

If I lie restless on my bed,
Your word of healing peace be said,
If powerful dreams rise in the night,
Transform their darkness into light.

All praise to God, sustaining us,
Redeeming and transfiguring us,
Thanksgiving in eternity,
All praise, beloved Trinity.

Prayers

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
~~—— Tōku wairua ki ōu ringaringa, e te Atua,~~
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.
~~—— nāu nei ahau i hoko, e te Atua o te pono, o te aroha.~~

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
~~—— Ko koe hei totara whakamarumaru mōku;~~
hide me under the shadow of your wings.
~~—— huna ahau ki raro i ōu parirau.~~

One of the following antiphons is said together, before the Nunc Dimittis.

ORDINARY DAYS

**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.**

Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.

At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so 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.
~~— E te Ariki kia aroha mai.~~
~~—— Kyrie eleison.~~

Christ, have mercy.
~~— E te Karaiti kia aroha mai.~~
~~—— Christe eleison.~~

Lord have mercy.
~~— E te Ariki kia aroha mai.~~
~~—— Kyrie eleison.~~

The Lord's Prayer or the alternative is said.

**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.**

The minister and people pray responsively.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
~~—Ka takoto ahau, ka whakatā,~~
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.
~~—i roto i te Atua e kore ahau e wehi.~~

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,
~~—Tātou ka whakapai i te Kai-hanga, i te Kai-whakamārie,~~
~~—i te Kai-hōmai i te ora,~~
let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.
~~—tātou ka whakapai, ka whakanui i te Atua mō ake tonu atu.~~

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
~~—Whakanuia te ingoa o te Atua ki ngā Tūārangi,~~
glorified and exalted above all for ever.
~~—whakapaingia, whakamoemititia mō ake tonu atu.~~

One or more of the following is said, concluding with the Sentence of the Day and Final Versicle.

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.

Sentence of the Day

SUNDAY

O God of love and mercy,
grant us, with all your people, rest and peace.

Final Versicle

The service concludes

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

———~~Kia noho te Wairua o te Runga Rawa ki a tātou.~~

Thanks be to God.

———~~Whakamoemitiā a Ihowā.~~