**Compline**

**Night Prayer from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*.***

**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*

**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**

Psalm 65

*A Version for New Zealand*

Praise is your due O God in the holy city;\*

promises made to you shall be fulfilled;   
prayer you always listen to.

You accept all who come to you with shame;\*

sin would overwhelm us, but you wash it away.

Blest is anyone you choose to live with you;\*

your house is an inspiration, a hallowed place.

You spread your justice, God our Saviour,\*

across the world to the farthest oceans.

You have laid down the mountain ranges and set them fast;\*

you make the seas calm and the sounds peaceful;

you reconcile the peoples who dwell here.

So in this corner of the earth we wonder at your deeds;\*

at the meeting of east and west we sing your praise.

You water the land and make it flourish,\*

from your own bursting river.

To provide our crops, you plough and irrigate the land,

softening it with rain to make it fruitful;\*   
a record harvest is achieved, and the stores are overflowing.

The tussock land becomes pasture   
and the brown hills turn green;\*

the paddocks are crowded with sheep   
and the plains thick with wheat:   
the world itself a canticle of praise.

**Reading**

**Thursday**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom thay have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.*1 John 4:18-20*

**Hymn**

5

Be thou my vision, O Christ of my heart,   
Be all else but naught to me save that thou art,   
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,   
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor folk’s empty praise,   
Be thou my inheritance now and always,  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,   
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

**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 an 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.**

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.**

*The antiphon may be repeated.*

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

***The Lord’s Prayer****is said.*

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

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

*The minister and people pray responsively.*

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.**

**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**

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.

**Final Versicle**

*The service concludes*

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**