

Wednesday Worship

Benefice Online Services during Lockdown
Every Wednesday 7.30pm

Poetry & Compline

a contemplative service



Newbury, St George & St John

Welcome to the benefice of St George and St John

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

Please prepare by lighting a candle, (if you wish), and sitting quietly.

Introductory Poem

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.

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.

The following or another 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 Word of God

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

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.

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; •
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness •
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not; •
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness •
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' •
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart, •
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, •
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 104

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. •
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, •
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

You make darkness that it may be night, •
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

The lions roar for their prey •
and seek their food from God.

The sun rises and they are gone •
to lay themselves down in their dens.

People go forth to their work •
and to their labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! •
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide, •
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan •
which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you •
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it; •
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled; •
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, •
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; •
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

*Creator God,
send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,
that the whole creation,
in its groaning and striving,
may know your loving purpose
and come to reflect your glory;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, •
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary •
and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth •
give you blessing out of Zion.

At the end of the psalmody, 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.**

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

(or)

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

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will
be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need
the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light,
and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4,5

Second Poem *Optional*

A brief reflection *Optional*

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 (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

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

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: •

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation •

which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

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.**

**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

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.
*[Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]*

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

We depart in silence

Benefice of St George and St John.

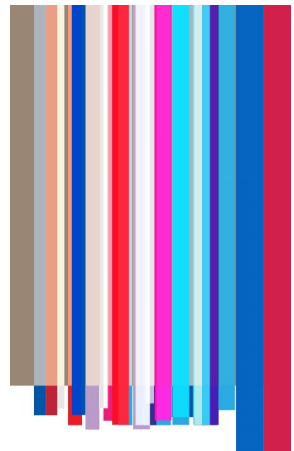
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