



Evening Prayer

The Humanity of Prayer

3rd March 2021



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer
with St George the Martyr, Wash Common and
St John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as we close the day in prayer.

Please put your settings on mute for the service until the dismissal where we will all respond.

The Greeting

A candle is lit.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,
according to your judgement give us life.

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us
Anselm of Canterbury (1109)

**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.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

A Hymn of Security. Psalm 3

Refrain: You, Lord, are a shield about me.

Lord, how many are my adversaries; •
many are they who rise up against me.
Many are they who say to my soul, •
'There is no help for you in your God.'
But you, Lord, are a shield about me; •
you are my glory, and the lifter up of my head.
When I cry aloud to the Lord, •
he will answer me from his holy hill;
I lie down and sleep and rise again, •
because the Lord sustains me.
I will not be afraid of hordes of the peoples •
that have set themselves against me all around.
Rise up, O Lord, and deliver me, O my God, •
for you strike all my enemies on the cheek
and break the teeth of the wicked.
Salvation belongs to the Lord: •
may your blessing be upon your people.

You, Lord, are a shield about me.

*Shield us, Lord, from all evil,
and lift us from apathy and despair,
that even when we are terrified,
we may trust your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our 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 for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 8.1-13

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again,

'I will put my trust in him.'

And again,

'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Humanity of Prayer

A reflection on religion, poetry and breaking teeth.

Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God.

**Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God.**

Make haste to help me,
O Lord of my salvation.

Be not far from me, O my God.

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

**Forsake me not, O Lord;
be not far from me, O my God.**

The Magnificat (*The Song of Mary*)

*Refrain. Come, let us return to the Lord,
for our God will richly pardon.*

¹ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

² From this day all generations will call me blessed; •
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

³ He has mercy on those who fear him, •
from generation to generation.

⁴ He has shown strength with his arm •
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵ Casting down the mighty from their thrones •
and lifting up the lowly.

⁶ He has filled the hungry with good things •
and sent the rich away empty.

⁸ The promise made to our ancestors, •
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**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.**

*Refrain. Come, let us return to the Lord,
for our God will richly pardon.*

Prayers

God of compassion,
hear our prayer.

The Collect

Companion God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

Let us pray in confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For theine is the kingdom, the power,

and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Responses

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.



Nick Cave's Red Hand File—'Prayer to Who?' can be found here;
www.theredhandfiles.com/a-prayer-to-who/

Carol Ann Duffy's poem Prayer, can be found here;
www.thepoetryexchange.co.uk/prayer-carol-ann-duffy

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