

## A Night Service

In the dying of the evening and in the rising of the morning, we rejoice in your name

**You Lord are the Same Now, Forever and Always. Amen.**

### *Reflection*

Let us remember the now ending day

For the joys and wonders it has brought (*silence*)  
For the rewards we have encountered (*silence*)  
For the goals and achievements that have been met (*silence*)  
For the concord that has been found (*silence*)

We also remember

The hurt that our failures and behaviour has brought (*silence*)  
The harm that self-interest and our actions have created (*silence*)  
The despair and trauma that we encounter (*silence*)  
Our failure to express your Love in our lives (*silence*)

### *Hymn*

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

John Ellerton, 1870

### *Confession*

**We confess and repent for our failures. We rejoice in Your promise to us, expressed in the life of Jesus who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. All things in heaven and on earth were created by him, all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers, all things were created through him and for him. He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him (*From Col. 1:15-18*). We fail You in many ways. In the power of Your Spirit we pray for Your forgiveness in the Love of Christ.**

*Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in Heaven / Our Father who art in Heaven**

*A prayer for the human family (from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer)*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A prayer for the outcast*

Jesus the Christ, you yourself was an outcast. You worked on behalf of outcasts throughout your ministry on earth. You spoke against the systems that harmed your people and healed those who were hurt. Hear us this evening as we decry the racism and prejudice that pervades our common life. Heed our sighs as we lament the legacy of oppression in this land. Open the eyes of the complacent, soothe the wounds of the broken and bruised, and build bridges between us all, so that never again may the blood and hurt of our fellow human beings cry out from the ground upon which we walk, so that the dream will be accomplished in which people of all races, all gender identities, and all sexualities will join hand in hand and sit down to eat at the table of justice, equality, love and peace. **Amen.**

*A prayer for courage and strength*

God, our Refuge and Strength, Protector of all who call upon you: we thank you for all those who work to keep all people safe. Give them with wisdom, determination and care. Remind them that with great power comes great responsibility. As they place their own lives on the line for the protection of all people, shield them from the evils of those who oppose them, now and always. **Amen.**

*A prayer for the evening (from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer)*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

*Comfortable Words*

Hear the comfortable words our Saviour Christ said unto all that truly turn to him. Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Lord God grant us Your Peace, guard us and keep us through the coming night so that, as the new dew sparkles in the morning light, may we also shine, renewed, refreshed in the Love of Christ

*Blessing*

**May the God who knows all our inner thoughts and feelings, bless us and keep us**  
**May the God who sees all our hurts and anxieties, calm us and succour us**  
**May the God who knows all our ideals and desires, inspire us**  
**May the God who knows all that we are, give us his Peace**  
**May the blessing and the wisdom of the God who cares for us**  
**Grant us a peaceful rest and a quiet night.**

**Amen**