

New Zealand Night Prayers

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 labor 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

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, 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.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 31

O God, I have come to you for shelter: let me never be put to shame.

Deliver me in the justice of your ways: incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me: for you are my rock and my stronghold.

Lead me and guide me for your name's sake: deliver me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my strength. Into your hands I commit my spirit, for you will redeem me, eternal God of truth.

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.

Antiphon

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.

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon

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 to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.

Antiphon

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.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever. Amen.**

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 forever.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all forever.

God our Creator, our center, our friend, we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us, for our dead, and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have, and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful and useful until our lives shall end. **Amen.**

Lord, it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

silence

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.

silence

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.**

The service concludes

The divine Spirit dwells in us.
Thanks be to God.