

EVENING WORSHIP

(Taken from the New Zealand Anglican Church's Prayer Book)

THE PREPARATION

God is Spirit and those who worship God must worship in Spirit and in truth, (John 4:24)
Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven. As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives.

In our prayers we give thanks for God's goodness,
We pray for others as well as for ourselves,
And we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.
All this we do because we believe in the presence among us of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear these words of Scripture:
Love one another, for love is of God and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.
Spirit of God, search our hearts. In silence, let us remember our need for God's forgiveness.

A period of silence

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of mercy,
We have sinned against you and against others.
We have sinned in what we have done,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for our sins,

forgive us all that is past
and raise us to newness of life. Amen.

Almighty God,
Who pardons all who truly repent,
Forgive your sins,
Strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
And keep you in life eternal;
Through Jesus Christ our redeemer,
Amen

THE MIINISTRY OF THE WORD

O Come, let us sing to the Lord.
Let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
We sing to you O God and bless your name;
And tell of your salvation from day to day.
We proclaim your glory to the nations,
Your praise to the ends of the earth.

The Psalm

At the end of the psalm we say:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

A reading from the Old Testament 1 Kings 19-9-18

There he went into a cave and spent the night. The Lord's word came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

Elijah replied, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!"

The Lord said, "Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

He said, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

The Lord said to him, "Go back through the desert to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Also anoint Jehu, Nimshi's son, as king of Israel; and anoint Elisha from Abel-meholah, Shaphat's son, to succeed you as prophet. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill. Whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. But I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven't bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven't kissed him."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

A Reflection

Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of mankind

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind;**

**in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm.**

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

The Magnificat

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me
blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
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.**

Make your ways known upon the earth, O God,
Your saving power among all peoples.

Renew your church in holiness
And help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
That justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy be forgotten
Nor the hope of the poor taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace
And let your glory be over all the earth.

*A Time of silence as we offer to God our
concerns and petitions for ourselves and those
we care about.*

A prayer for Lebanon

God our refuge in times of trouble we pray for
our sisters and brothers in Beirut today. Be with
the emergency services as they battle to help
the thousands injured.

Hold those who have lost loved ones in the
palm of your hand.

Lord, we pray your provision for poor and
marginalised communities who face an even
more uncertain future.

Give wisdom to those who lead this nation at
this time; especially as they make difficult
decisions about priorities and resources.

Lord, open our hearts- may they be full of
compassion for the suffering we see.

Stir us to action

In the tragedy of loss, we pray your comfort.

In the chaos and injury, we pray your calm and
divine healing.

In the devastation, the heartbreak and the
unrest, we pray your peace.

We pray that in the despair that lies amid the
rubble of the explosion, there will be glimmers
of hope and life.

Amen

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Collect for the Evening.

Gracious God,

You have given us much today;

Grant us also a thankful spirit.

Into your hands we commend ourselves
and those we love.

Be with us still,

and when we take our rest

renew us for the service of your Son Jesus
Christ.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**The almighty and merciful God bless us and
keep us now and for ever. Amen**

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Acknowledgements

A New Zealand Prayer Book, 1989