



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Environment Programme

An Order for Night Prayer during Creationtide

Introduction

This service takes the form of Compline or Night Prayer. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. In this service we rejoice in the world that God has created and move towards a more appreciative understanding of our place in creation. This service may be said inside by candle light or in an outdoor space.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection may follow calling to mind the fragile earth, our home and our calling to be stewards of God's creation.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord have mercy,
All **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ have mercy,
All **Christ have mercy**

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others, Lord have mercy,
All **Lord have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

All

**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.**

All

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.

The unwearied sun from day to day
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land
The works of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;

Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings, as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
What though nor real voice nor sound
Amid their radiant orbs he found;

In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever singing as they shine,
'The hand that made us is divine.'

(May be sung to Te Lucis Ante Terminum, Mode viii)

The Word of God

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms or canticles may be used.

Verses from Psalm 8

Lord our God,
the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants
declares your strength,
your power to halt the enemy and avenger.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

I see your handiwork in the heavens:
the moon and the stars you set in place.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

What is humankind that you remember them,
the human race that you care for them?

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

You treat them like gods,

dressing them in glory and splendour.

You give them charge of the earth, laying all at their feet:

cattle and sheep, wild beasts,

birds of the sky, fish of the sea, every swimming creature.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Lord our God,

the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Psalm 65

Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.

2 To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins; when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.

3 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there.

We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple. **[R]**

4 With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

5 In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.

- 6 You still the raging of the seas, the roaring of their waves
and the clamour of the peoples.
- 7 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise. [R]
- 8 You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.
- 9 The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.
- 13 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

Refrain: Be joyful in God, all the earth.

Psalm 104

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

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 2 You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment.
- 3 You spread out the heavens like a curtain
and lay the beams of your dwelling place in the waters above.
- 4 You make the clouds your chariot
and ride on the wings of the wind.

- 5 You make the winds your messengers
and flames of fire your servants. [R]
- 6 You laid the foundations of the earth,
that it never should move at any time.
- 7 You covered it with the deep like a garment;
the waters stood high above the hills.
- 8 At your rebuke they fled;
at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 9 They rose up to the hills and flowed down to the valleys beneath,
to the place which you had appointed for them.
- 10 You have set them their bounds that they should not pass,
nor turn again to cover the earth. [R]
- 11 You send the springs into the brooks,
which run among the hills.
- 12 They give drink to every beast of the field
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 13 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches.
- 14 You water the hills from your dwelling on high;
the earth is filled with the fruit of your works. [R]
- 15 You make grass to grow for the cattle
and plants to meet our needs,
- 16 Bringing forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden our hearts,
- 17 Oil to give us a cheerful countenance
and bread to strengthen our hearts.
- 18 The trees of the Lord are full of sap,
the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,
- 19 In which the birds build their nests,
while the fir trees are a dwelling for the stork.

- 20 The mountains are a refuge for the wild goats
and the stony cliffs for the conies. [R]
- 21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time for its setting.
- 22 You make darkness that it may be night,
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
- 23 The lions roar for their prey
seek their food from God.
- 24 The sun rises and they are gone
to lay themselves down in their dens.
- 25 People go forth to their work
and to their labour until the evening. [R]
- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth. [R]
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

36 So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.

37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

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

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

**All 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.**

Benedicite - a Song of Creation (shorter version)

1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

2 Bless the Lord you heavens: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

4 Bless the Lord all people on earth: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

5 O people of God bless the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: •
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart;
bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: •
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Scripture Reading

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

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.
Genesis 1.31

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

Psalm 104. 26

In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and
invisible- all things have been created through him and for him.

Colossians 1.16

You are worthy, our Lord and God to receive glory and honour and
power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were
created.

Revelation 4.11

The following responsory may be said

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

All Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
Your grace and peace to us allow
And be our guard and keeper now.

I Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

All **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.**

All **Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
Your grace and peace to us allow
And be our guard and keeper now.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

God our Father,
you never cease the work you have begun
and prosper with your blessing all human labour:
make us wise and faithful stewards of your gifts
that we may serve the common good,
maintain the fabric of our world
and seek that justice where all may share
the good things you pour upon us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

**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.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

An act of Praise based on Psalm 145

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
there is no end to his greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another,
and shall declare your power.**

All creation praises you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

**They declare the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your mighty power.**

My mouth shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
**Let every living thing bless his holy name
for ever and ever.**

The doxology is said or sung

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

All **Amen.**

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