

St Nicholas, Chislehurst

A live-streamed service of **Compline** or **Night Prayer**
According to *Common Worship*

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion'. It is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. Many people keep silence after compline. If the service is in a church, the congregation leave in silence; or if prayed at home, many people go straight to bed afterwards. However you choose to engage with the service, we would encourage you to keep a period of silence afterwards.

During this period of 'lockdown', Rev'd Tim Boniface will lead a weekly Compline from his home and stream it live on the St Nicholas Chislehurst Facebook page. Please see the regular emails from the Churchwardens on how to access this. You may also wish to play the service again to use on other evenings in the same week. There are slight seasonal changes to Compline (i.e. as we go into Easter season) but most of it stays very much the same. Where there are changes we will send out a new order of service.

You are all invited to join in with everything in bold, plus the hymn and the psalms. Compline can be almost entirely sung, but given that many of us will not be familiar with it and we have no choir to lead the singing, we will be saying it, except for one hymn. You may not know the hymn, but you'll pick it up very quickly. It is the same each time. We hope you find comfort and encouragement in this service, even when joining from a distance.

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 on the past day.

All: **Most merciful God,
We confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God make speed to save us.
All: 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.**

The hymn is sung.

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
that you with steadfast love would keep
your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
from fears and terrors of the night;
tread underfoot out deadly foe
that we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
through Jesus Christ your only Son;
and Holy Spirit, by whose breath
our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalmody

We say the following Psalms together. There is a short pause at the diamond, and between each verse.

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦
You set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonor my glory; ♦
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvelous kindness; ♦
When I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦
commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦
and put your trust in the Lord.

- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

**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.**

Scripture Reading

This or another scripture is read.

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;
Leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

The following responsory is said.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All: I commend my spirit.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit.

All: Into you hands, O Lord, I commend my Spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
All: Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said.

**All: Save us, O Lord, while waking,
And guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ
And asleep we may rest in peace.**

- 1 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.

**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: Save us, O Lord, while waking,
And guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ
And asleep we may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Intercessions and prayers will be offered here, as well as a period of silence for your own prayers.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
And drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
May your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
And may your blessing always be upon us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All: **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus.
All: **for the night is at hand and the day is now past**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
All: **So do we look for you, O Christ.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
All: **Amen.**

A period of silence will be kept.

Feel free to remain with the silence online, or to log off the page. Thank you for joining with us.

Prepared by St Nicholas Chislehurst, Diocese of Rochester, UK.
Copyright © *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England.*
Archbishops Council 2000. CCLI 418974.