INTROIT: I heard the voice of Jesus say (Horatius Bonar)

Rev Marylee Anderson [00:03:29] A very warm welcome to King's College Chapel at the University of Aberdeen for this service of Compline. My name is Marylee and I am one of the University Chaplains. Today, I am joined by our Director of Chapel Music, Stuart Muir, who is also playing the organ; our Duncan Hopkin Conducting Scholar, Liam Dyker, as well as two members of the University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir: Marcus Wylie and Lewa Oloasebikan. There are orders of service available on the Chapel website, if you would like to join along with us. Compline (or Night Prayer) is the final church service (or Office) of the day, coming from the Christian monastic tradition. The English word Compline is derived from the Latin completorium, meaning ‘completion’ since Compline was said or sung by clergy or those in religious orders at the end of the working day. Sometimes referred to as the ‘goodnight prayer of the Church’, Compline rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote: I lie down in peace and take my rest for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.
Our help is in the name of the Lord: who made heaven and earth.

Rev Marylee Anderson [00:05:14] In this stillness, we reflect on the past day. And together, we pray.

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.

RESPONSORIAL. CANTOR: Lewa Oloasebikan

HYMN: Before the ending of the day CANTOR: Marcus Wylie

PSALM 90. CANTORS: Lewa Oloasebikan & Marcus Wylie

Our scripture reading is Psalm 46. God is our refuge and strength; an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her. She will not fall. God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall. He lifts his voice; the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, 'Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted amongst the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Let us pray together. Our prayers tonight are inspired by Psalm 46, written by Reverend Abbey and posted on A Place for Prayer.

Let us pray. God, you are our safe place to hide, you are our mighty fortress, you are ever present help in time of need. We can and do turn to you in the midst of our troubles. And Lord, our world is full of difficulties. Lord, we may feel afraid, but it does not overcome us because we know we can put our trust in you. Your love and grace are like streams of water in the desert, your joy comes splashing down upon us. You refresh and renew us like rain coming down on the earth. Bring your water of life to those who are thirsty and living in a dry and weary land. Where there are wars, bring your peace. Where there is starvation, fill the empty bellies. Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is animosity, bring your reconciliation. Where there is abuse, bring your tender mercies. Where there is poverty bring your charity. Where that is illness, bring your healing. Where there is grief, bring your gentleness. Where there is injustice, bring your justice. Lord, you are our mighty fortress, our strong deliverer: in you, we put our trust and release ourselves into your hands.

Let us pray to the Lord together, that this evening may be holy, good and peaceful: we pray to you, O Lord. That all we have done this day and the people we have met may bring us closer to you: we pray to you, O Lord. That we may be forgiven our sins and offences: we pray to you, O Lord. That we hear and respond to your call to peace and justice: we pray to you, O Lord. That you will sustain the faith and hope of the weary, the lonely and the oppressed: we pray to you, O Lord. That you will strengthen us in your service and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in your presence. 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. 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 Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. So, now may the almighty and merciful Lord: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer bless and keep us. Amen.

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