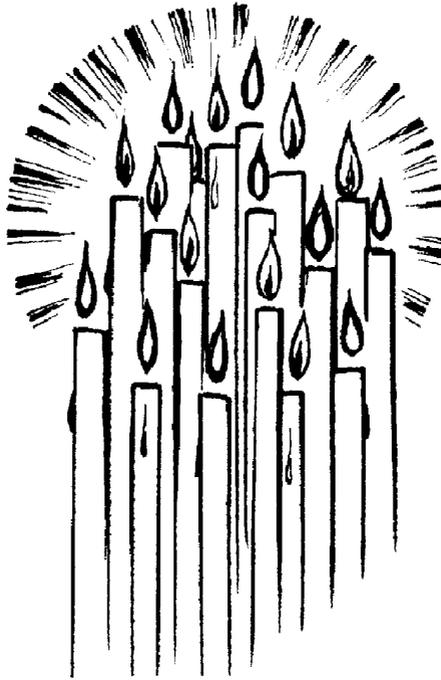




KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



SUNG COMPLINE



Welcome to this service of Compline.

Compline (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.*

Compline derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, most of which we sing to ancient plainsong chant.

Whilst some of the language we use tonight is more 'traditional', this reminds us our offering of worship to God this night is part of the worship of the Church that has gone on for centuries and will continue after us.

For some it is the music, for others the prayers, for others the times of silence and reflection that makes this a special service – you are invited to let the combination of these feed your soul in this service this evening.

* * *

THE GATHERING

OPENING RESPONSORIAL

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.

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

A short period of silence for reflection on the past day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**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

O God make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever.

Amen.



HYMN – sung by ALL



I Be-fore the end-ing of the day, Cre - a - tor of the world, we pray



That you, with stead-fast love, would keep Your watch a-round us while we sleep.

- 2 From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.
- 3 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 PSALMODY

PSALM OF THE DAY

The Psalm for the evening is sung.

THE READING

SCRIPTURE READING

A short reflection may follow the reading.

A short time of silence follows.



RESPONSORY

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.



THE RESPONSE

GOSPEL CANTILCE

Antiphon

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: *
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
A light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Antiphon

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.



THE PRAYERS

PRAYERS

*Prayers for intercession may be offered,
concluding with the intercession litany:*

In peace let us pray to the Lord...

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 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.

COLLECT

A collect is then said or sung, or the prayer overleaf is said:

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray;
and in your mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

OR

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world
may rest in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OR

In your name, O Lord, we will lie down tonight,
and give ourselves
and all whom we love into your protection.

**Let no thought come to our hearts,
no sound come to our ears,
no temptation come to our eyes,
nor any trouble come to our households
which would hurt our bodies
or harm our souls.**

With your strong love surround us;
and in our resting and our rising,
nourish us and all whom we love
with the health and happiness of heaven.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour has taught us,
so 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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.



ANTHEM

A short hymn or anthem is sung.

THE DEPARTING

CLOSING PRAYER

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.

OR

O Great Mystery of Mysteries,
star above stars,
word within the Word
who gave Jesus to sleep
even in danger,
command your kind angels
to encircle this night
our souls and our bodies.

And from the home of light
to the place where we rest
send your Spirit
to mend and tend
and write on our hearts
the promises of Jesus.

**Let ours be the peace of the Maker,
and ours be the peace of the Son,
and ours be the peace of the Spirit
throughout the darkness
until morning comes.
Amen.**

CONCLUSION – sung by choir

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord:
thanks be to God.

May the almighty and merciful Lord:
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
bless and keep us.
Amen.





The University of Aberdeen Multi-faith Chaplaincy

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