INTROIT: Creator of the stars at night - plainsong  

Rev Marylee Anderson: Welcome to King's College Chapel for this service of Compline. My name is Marylee and I am one of the University Chaplains. Tonight I'm joined by our director of Chapel Music, Stuart Muir, who is also playing the organ, our Duncan Hopkin Conducting Scholar, Liam Dyker, and from the University of Aberdeen Chapel Choir we are joined by Amy Anderson and Zak McCullough. Compline (or Night Prayer) is the final church service 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'. So for some it is the music, for others the prayers, for others the times of reflection, that make this a special service. You are invited to let the combination of these feed your soul during our time together.

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.

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: Amy Anderson and Zak McCullough

HYMN: Before the ending of the day  

PSALM 91: Amy Anderson and Zak McCullough

Rev Marylee Anderson: Our scripture reading comes from Second Corinthians, Chapter four, verses six to ten.

For God, who said, 'let the light shine out of darkness', made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay. To show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.
Let us pray. Eternal defender of the poor and sad, hear our prayers for all who suffer. For those who are refugees, exiles from home, because of the cruelty of enemies or the vagaries of nature. For those who are starving, and whose tears are their only food. For those who are desperate for a drink, and who thirst for life-giving water. For those who are sad and troubled, whose hearts break for want of hope. For those who are grieving, who mourn the loss of a loved one. For those whose faith is weak, who feel that God has abandoned them. Protector of the weak, be with all who need you today. May they know that they are not forgotten.

And 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 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.

That we hear and respond to your call to peace and justice:

we pray to you, O Lord.
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 us 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.

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 this night and always. Amen.

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