**Night Prayer**

(from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

 August 3-August 7

The angels of God guard us through the night,

**and quiet the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide

**to lead us to peace and to glory**.

It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,

and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

*Silence*

My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,

**who is making the heavens and the earth**.

Dear God,

Thank you for all that is good,

for our creation and our humanity,

for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,

for the gifts of life and of one another,

for your love, which is unbounded and eternal.

O Thou, most holy and beloved,

my Companion, my Guide upon the way,

my bright evening star.

We repent the wrongs we have done.

*Silence*

We have wounded your love.

**O God, heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness.

**Light of the world, transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home.

**Spirit of God, dwell in us**.

Eternal Spirit, living God,

in whom we live and move and have our being,

all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,

to the very secret of our hearts

and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame, burn into us,

cleansing wind, blow through us,

fountain of water, well up within us,

that we may love and praise you in deed and in truth.

**Invocation**

Eternal Spirit,

Flow through our being and open our lips,

**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the God of love.

Psalm 134

We your servants bless you, O God,

 as we stand by night in your house.

We lift up our hands towards the holy place,

 and give you thanks and praise.

Bless us from all places where you dwell,

 O God, creator of the heavens and the earth.

**Reading**

*(One of the following passages of scripture is read.)*

**Monday**

You, Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Leave us not. (Jeremiah 14:9)

**Tuesday**

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give, and it will be given to you; for the measure you give will be the measure you receive. (Luke 6:27-38)

**Wednesday**

Do not ask anxiously, What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear? The whole world runs after such things. Set your heart and mind on God’s commonwealth and justice first, and all the rest will come to you as well. So do not be anxious about tomorrow. Today has enough problems of its own; tomorrow can look after itself. (Matthew 6: 31-34)

**Thursday**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates a brother or sister, that person is a liar: for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

(1 John 4:18-20)

**Friday**

It is the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. (2 Corinthians 4:6-10)

**Prayers**

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

**for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.**

Keep me, O God, as the apple of your eye,

**hide me under the shadow of your wings**.

**Preserve us, O God, while waking,**

**and guard us while sleeping,**

**that awake we may watch with Christ,**

**and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Lord, you now have set your servant free

 to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,

 whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

 and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,

As in the beginning, so now, and for ever.

Amen.

**Preserve us, O God, while waking,**

**and guard us while sleeping,**

**that awake we may watch with Christ,**

**and asleep we may rest in peace.**

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.

Save us from the time of trial

 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

 now and forever. Amen.

Be present, Spirit of God,

within us, your dwelling place and home,

that this house may be one where

all darkness is penetrated by your light,

all troubles calmed by your peace,

all evil redeemed by your love,

all pain transformed in your suffering,

and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.

Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.

 Let us be still in the presence of God.

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.

I invite your prayers and intercessions.

**Sentence of the Day**

**Monday**

God bless us and keep us,

God’s face shine on us and be gracious to us,

and give us light and peace.

**Tuesday**

To God the Creator,

 who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,

to God the Redeemer,

 who loves us and by dying and rising

 pioneered the way of freedom,

to God the Sanctifier,

 who spreads divine love in our hearts,

be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

**Wednesday**

O God,

strengthen your servants with your heavenly grace,

that we may continue yours for ever

and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,

until we come to your everlasting kingdom.

**Thursday**

Christ be within us to keep us,

beside us to guard,

before us to lead,

behind us to protect,

beneath us to support,

above us to bless.

**Friday**

The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wilderness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

**Final Versicle**

The divine Spirit dwells within us.

**Thanks be to God**.