

# Night Prayer

## Approach

The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**and quieten the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide  
**to lead us to peace and to glory.**

It is but lost labour 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 is kept, during which a candle is lit on the altar, a symbol of the light of Christ which is never overcome. You may wish to light a candle also, wherever you are praying.*

E te whānau / 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 for 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,  
tāku whetū mārama i te pō / 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 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.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Psalm**

*A psalm will be read*

### **Reading**

*A reading from Scripture follows.  
Silence is kept following the reading so that we might contemplate on its meaning.*

## **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 an 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 may rest in your peace.**

### Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

**Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.  
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.  
At last you have given me peace,  
for I have seen with my own eyes  
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -  
a light to the world in its darkness,  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory be 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 may rest in your peace.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord have mercy.

As Christ teaches us, 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The minister and people pray responsively.*

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
**for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**

Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
**let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.**

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,  
**glorified and exalted above all for ever.**

*Further prayers will be offered.*

## **The Sentence**

O God of love and mercy,  
grant us, with all your people, rest and peace.

*The service concludes*

The divine Spirit dwells in us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Material from A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa  
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