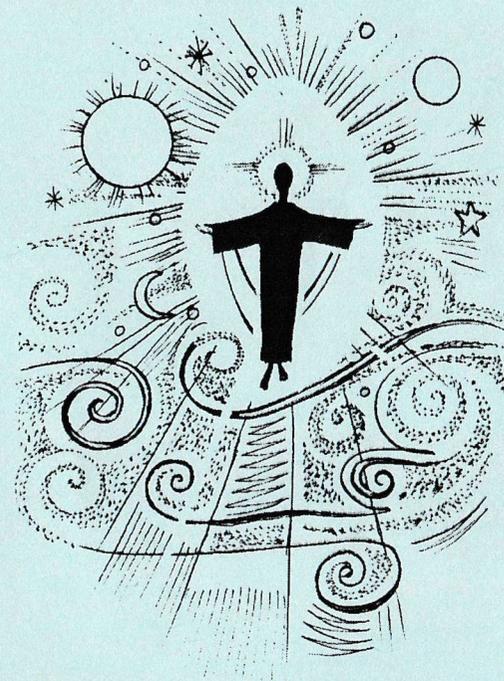


St. Mary's Chiddingfold

Evening Prayer



*When evening comes, there will be light.
Zechariah 14: 7*

Opening

With you, O God, is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
our light and our life;
to you be glory and praise forever!
When we turn away to darkness and chaos,
like a mother you do not forsake us.
You search for us when we wander from your ways,
and rejoice to bring us back to your generous heart.
Your living Word brings light out of darkness
and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
bending our wills to your gentle rule,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever!

**As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us,
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Confession

Let us in silence bring before God those things of today for which
we seek his healing and forgiveness...*(pause)*

**We pray in peace knowing our sins are forgiven;
we pray in peace knowing death has no fear.
We pray in peace knowing no powers can harm us;
we pray in peace knowing angels are near.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Commitment

Into God's keeping we put all the things of today:
all disappointments, hindrances,
forgotten things and negligences.
All gladness, beauty, love, delight and achievement.
All that people have done for us,
all that we have done for them,
our work and our prayers.
And we commit all the people we love
to his shepherding,
to his healing and restoring,
to his calling and making;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(19th c. prayer, adapted)

A prayer of light

God of power and might,
as the day departs and the shadows lengthen,
we hear your promise
that out of darkness light will shine.
Shine now in our hearts
with the light which is knowledge of the glory of God,
in the face of Jesus Christ.
Dispel the gloomy clouds of night,
and enlighten us with the radiance of your truth and love.

**With the flame of your eternal light, O God,
kindle in us the fire of your love;
and renew us with your Holy Spirit,
that we might shine like stars in the darkness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Bible reading(s)

Time of reflection

A meditation or other reading, or a piece of music may follow here.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it. **Amen.**

Intercessions

*Prayers follow for the needs of the world, for our local community, and for those we know who are in any particular need at this time.
A time of quiet is kept for those present to offer their own prayers, either in silence or aloud.*

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

O God, in you all darkness is turned to light
and all brokenness is made whole;
look with compassion on us
and on those for whom we have prayed,
that we may be recreated in Jesus Christ,
our Redeemer and Healer. **Amen.**

Proceeding

**Protect us through the hours of this night,
that we who are wearied by the changes and chances
of a restless world
may rest upon you eternally. Amen.**