

Evening Liturgy

From Iona Community

wild goose
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Opening responses

This is the time
when light fades
and shadows lengthen
and sounds are subdued –
all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time
when bodies relax,
minds unwind,
and tiredness comes –
all as God intended.

Amen

This is the time
when others greet the morning
while we meet the night,
and the world continues to sing,
in all the accents of creation,
a love-song to its Maker.

Blessed be God's Name.

Prayer

Come, brother Jesus, be our guest,
stay with us for day is ending.
Bring to this place your poverty,
for then shall we be rich.
Bring to this place your pain,
that in sharing it, we may also share your joy.
Bring to this place your understanding of us,
that we may be freed to learn more of you.
Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,
that we and all things might be made new.
With friend, with stranger,
with the unknown and well known ones
be among us tonight,
**for the doors of this house are open,
and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

Scripture reading Acts 16, 6 - 10

Reflection

Night prayer

What if the darkness covers us
and the day around us turns to night?
Darkness is not too dark for God
to whom dark and light are one.
Let us pray
You never sleep, God.
You are always awake, always watching,
always willing the world and its people
to turn in the right direction.
So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep
because of illness,
or worry,
or fear;
or for reasons they cannot understand.

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wait
patiently or impatiently
for a birth
or a death,
for a visit,
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,
who look for inspiration,
who long to be with the one or the ones they love,
who hope to recognise the right time
when they can say 'I'm sorry,'
or 'I love you,'
or even 'Enough is enough.'

God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us
as we share with you
whatever joys or sorrows,
discoveries or questions
we will take with us into the night.

God be near us,
God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves –
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –
for all things come from you
and are best kept in your care.

Amen

Closing responses

For the day now done
thanks be to God.

For the rest before us
thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps
so that we can,
thanks be to God.

But before the day is done,
let God's holy name be praised;
and let God's people say Amen.

Amen

The Blessing

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