

Night Prayer at Home

All Saints' Cottenham with Rampton

25th July 2021

The day is almost over, the evening has come;
Let us worship together with one heart and mind

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

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.

Take a moment to think about your day; giving thanks for what was good and bringing to God those times that need His forgiveness

Lord God,

I have sinned against you;

I have done evil in your sight.

I am sorry and repent.

Have mercy on me according to your love.

**Wash away my wrongdoing
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Renew a right spirit within me

**and restore me to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

May the Father forgive us

by the death of his Son

and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit

all of our days. **Amen**

Isaiah 35:1-6

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

3 Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

4 say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

Last week Sarah reminded us that we can return to God time and again and that when we do we will be reminded of His love for us.

Our bible passage today talks of feeble hands, knees that give way and fearful hearts – I don't know about you but there are days when that is a pretty good description of how I feel. When we are feeling like that we have a variety of ways we try to cope with it, we might try to get more sleep, eat or drink something we particularly enjoy, try to get outside and spend time in our garden or by water, or make time to be with friends or family members. But the most important thing we can do every time we feel like this is stop and spend time with God. In yesterday's reading from the Celtic Daily Prayer book it said "We've all got little cells in our hearts, little hermitages that God wants to fill. For some there's a physical place of silence. It's hard to be silent. It's hard to stop. To know God in the quiet is worth a lot – it's there we'll get our vision and our peace to come through whatever hits us."

By learning to stop and be quiet with God we can find refreshment for that part of us that goes deeper than feeble hands and knees that give way.

Another part of the Celtic Prayer book suggests that we should spend time with God regularly, like the tide of the sea...

Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
make me an island, set apart, alone with You, God,
holy to You.

Then with the turning of the tide, prepare me to carry
Your presence to the busy world beyond, the world that
rushes in on me, till the waters come again and fold me
back to You.

We pray to the Lord that the rest of this day may be holy, peaceful and full of your presence:

Silence

In faith we pray **We pray to you our God**

We pray to the Lord that the things we have done and the people we have met today may bring us closer to you

Silence

In faith we pray **We pray to you our God**

We pray to the Lord that we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice

Silence

In faith we pray **We pray to you our God**

We pray to the Lord that you will sustain the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious

Silence

In faith we pray **We pray to you our God**

We pray to the Lord that you will strengthen us in your service, and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom

Silence

In faith we pray

We pray to you our God, you know us all and love us and hear our prayer: keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour

Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so 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.

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.

**Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

May the Lord bless us and watch over
us; the Lord make His face shine upon
us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us
and give us peace.

Amen.

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