

*Night Prayer*¹

Invocation Angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

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.

Confession We repent of the wrongs we have done
Our inattention and our closed hearts:

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.

We return to you now.
Bring us home.

Silence

Prayers The cares of our hearts
We entrust to you, O God.
The needs of your Church
We entrust to you, O God.
The wounds of the world
We entrust to you, O God.
The hopes we carry
We entrust to you, O God.
The deep desire for peace
We entrust to you, O God.

Here, the people may add particular petitions, intercessions, or thanksgivings.

With all our lives and all our holy longings
We praise you and trust your love for us,

¹ Includes elements from "Night Prayer," *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper, 1989 and from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, Church Publishing Co., 2014.

O Lover of our souls. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Night Prayer 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.**

Closing **God be in our heads, and in our understanding;**
 God be in our eyes, and in our looking;
 God be in our mouths, and in our speaking;
 God be in our hearts, and in our thinking;
 God be at our end, and at our departing.

Blessing Live without fear: your creator has made you holy, has always protected
you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road, and
may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**