

**An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)**  
**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**St. Margaret in-the-Pines Anglican Church**

*The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.*

**Opening**

Officiant: The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

**All: Amen.**

Officiant: Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

**All: Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Hymn:

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.  
From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.  
O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

## Psalmody

### Psalm 138

1. Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
2. **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.**
3. There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour.
4. **In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honours those who fear the Lord.**
5. He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.

6. **He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**
7. Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

### **Let Us Pray**

God of love, teach us to walk blamelessly in your ways, that our whole life may be established in you, and that we may come to the place prepared for us by your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

### **Scripture Reading**

Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6.14*

*The following responsories are said:*

Officiant: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**All: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Officiant: For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**All: I commend my spirit.**

Officiant: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**All: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Officiant: Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**All: Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## Gospel Cantic

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said:*

**All: Alleluia. Christ the light of the world, alleluia, has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations ♦  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All: Alleluia. Christ the light of the world, alleluia,  
has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **A Reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans (10.14–17)**

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' But not all have obeyed the good news;\* for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.\*

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

Officiant: Lord, hear our prayer;

**All: And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

### The Collect:

Blessed are you, eternal God,  
for your servant Richard Meux Benson,  
who heeded your call to holiness  
and nurtured in others, far and near,  
the vocation of constant union with Christ.  
Heal our intentions and transfigure our wills,  
that our lives may be filled  
with the harmony of your life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you

**All: Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

**All: Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

## Closing

Officiant: In peace we will lie down and sleep;

**All: for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Officiant: Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

**All: for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

Officiant: As the night watch looks for the morning,

**All: so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Officiant: May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,  
may the Spirit descend upon us,  
and the blessing of God be with us  
this night and always.

**All: Amen**

*From the Church of England Order for Night Prayer, adapted for online use by St. Margaret in-the-Pines.*