

Trinity Church

Cranford, in the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey



An Order for Compline

Saturday nights in Advent 2021
at eight o'clock in the evening

An Order for Compline

The Rev. Andrew David Kruger, officiant

Mr. Casey Jonathan Woodruff, officiant



The Office of Compline

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer, and is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. The shape of this simple office includes a gathering rite, scripture reading, prayers, and a conclusion. One of the hallmarks of Compline is the unhurried recitation of the psalms with a pause at the asterisk. Compline finds its fullest expression when it is the last thing we do before retiring.

The Angelus

The service will begin with the Angelus devotion which is prayed during the ringing of the church bells. The focus of the devotion is on the Incarnation of Christ and the Annunciation by the Angel to Mary, the Mother of our Lord. The origin of this devotion is obscure, but likely goes back to the practice of the evening tolling of the bell for compline in tenth century English monasteries. It has become customary for the Angelus bell to consist of ringing three sets of three and then a nine. The real significance of this pattern is not a hidden symbolism - trinitarian or otherwise - but the likelihood that it reflects the time at which the bell was rung for Compline at 9 PM. Several monastic customs mention a custom of ringing three separate peals of bells before some of the daily offices to call the brothers to assemble for prayer. The laity, who were not able to gather, were encouraged to associate their prayers with those of the monks, but, instead of their elaborate orations, the well-known Ave Maria became the lay people's choice. It seems feasible that in this way the Angelus evolved, and the pattern of the nine bells from the late-evening devotion was joined to the triple peals at the morning and midday observance.

Candlelight

Those attending this service in-person will receive a lighted votive upon entering the church. Online participants are encouraged to light their own candle for the service.

Credit: Compline Setting by Dr. David Hurd (b. 1950), ©1985. Used by permission.

Angelus Bell

The People stand, and the bell is rung three times; then the officiant says

And the angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." *Luke 1:28*

The bell is rung again three times, then the officiant says

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." *Luke 1:38*

The bell is rung again three times, then the officiant says

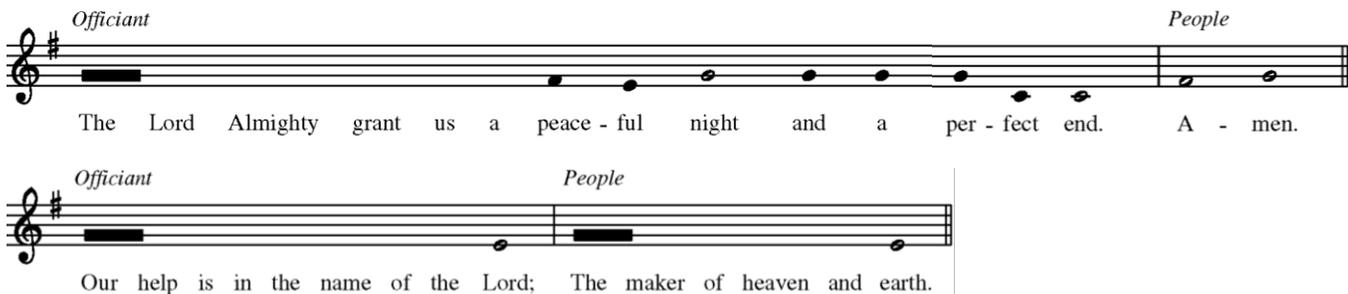
And Elizabeth exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." *Luke 1:42*

The bell is rung nine times, then the officiant and people kneel to pray

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Acclamation

Hymnal S 321



Officiant *People*

The Lord Almighty grant us a peace - ful night and a per - fect end. A - men.

Officiant *People*

Our help is in the name of the Lord; The maker of heaven and earth.

Confession

Book of Common Prayer 127

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept; then the Officiant and People pray

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father:
We have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 128

Officiant ✠ May the Almighty God grant you forgiveness of all your sins,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

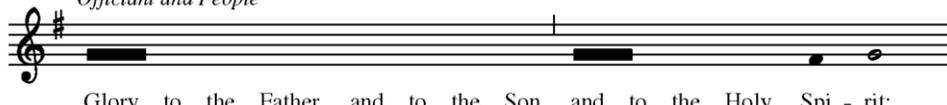
People **Amen.**

Officiant *People*



O God, make speed to save us, O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:



as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

The People sit. Incense is placed on the brazier.

Psalm 141

Plainsong Psalter

All are invited to sing the antiphon and psalm.



Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as in - cense, the lift - ing up



of my hands as the even - ing sac - ri - fice.



1 O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly; *

TONE VIII.1

- hear my voice / when I cry to you.
- 2 Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the / evening sacrifice.
- 3 Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD,
and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to / any evil thing.
- 4 Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers, *
nor eat / of their choice foods.
- 5 Let the righteous smite me in friendly rebuke;
let not the oil of the unrighteous anoint my head; *
for my prayer is continually a/gainst their wicked deeds.
- 6 Let their rulers be overthrown in stony places, *
that they may / know my words are true.
- 7 As when a plowman turns over the earth in furrows, *
let their bones be scattered at the / mouth of the grave.



8 But my eyes are turned to *yóu*, Lord GOD; *
 in you I take refuge;
 do not strip / me of *mý* life.

9 Protect me from the snare which they have *láid* for me *
 and from the traps of the / *evildóers*.

10 Let the wicked fall into *théir* own nets, *
 while / I *mysélf* escape. [*Ant.*]

1 Peter 5:8-9a

Hymnal S 330

Officiant



Be sober, be watch - ful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a



roar - ing lion, seeking someone to de - vour. Resist him, firm in your faith

People



Thanks be to God.

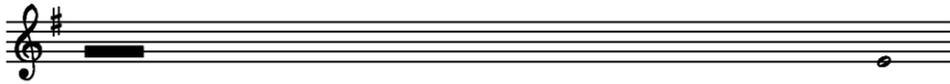
Sunday Gospel

Three minutes of silence are kept after the reading of the Gospel, then the Officiant and People kneel to pray.

Suffrages

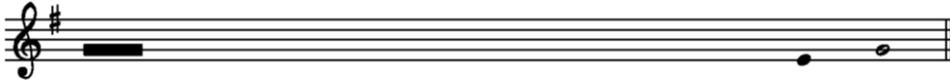
Hymnal S 332, S 333

Officiant



V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spi - rit;

People



R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

Officiant or Cantor



V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

People



R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Kyrie

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Officiant and People pray.

**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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

A Collect of the Day

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Evening Collect

BCP 134

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Intercessions

Officiant Let us pray for:

For the Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ... *silence is kept*
For nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God... *silence is kept*
For those who are working for justice in the world... *silence is kept*
For our homes, families, friends and all whom we love... *silence is kept*
For those whose time is spent caring for others... *silence is kept*
For those who are close to death... *silence is kept*
For those who have lost hope... *silence is kept*

Nunc dimittis

Hymnal S 336

The People stand. All are invited to sing the antiphon and the Canticle.

Antiphon *Mode 3*



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep-ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.

Tone 3



1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as you



have prom-ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sav - ior,



whom you have prepared for all the world to see: 3. A Light to en-



light-en the na - tions, and the glory of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit:



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for ev-er. A-men. [Ant.]

Dismissal

Hymnal S 337

Officiant *People*



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Officiant



The almighty and mer - ci - ful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spi - rit,

People



bless us and keep us. A - men.

The People extinguish their candles and leave in silence.

The Quintessential Compline 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.

This prayer in Night Prayer of *A New Zealand Prayer Book, He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* (page 184) is possibly the best-known, best-loved of the “endemic” prayers in that prayer book. The story of its inclusion is an interesting one.

The Rev. John Williamson was secretary of the Provincial Commission on Prayer Book Revision when it concluded its work in 1987. He has since died. He was a humble, talented priest, serving the commission and the church.

The commission had finished its work and was preparing to send the text to the General Synod where it would be presented, debated and voted upon for approval. They were meeting for the last time and asked John to lead them in one final prayer together.

He wrote the above prayer and used it at that service. Reading the prayer again, one can hear echoes of how the commission felt after its years of intense work. After the time of prayer one of the commission members said it should go into the Prayer Book. The others agreed, and the prayer had to be retrieved from the wastepaper basket where John, humble as ever, had tossed it after leaving that office.