

Prayer in the Evening

(adapted from Jim Cotter, *Prayer at Night's Approaching*)

The angels of God guard us
through the night,
**and quieten
the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God
be our guide
**to lead us to peace
and to glory.**

They that wait for the Spirit shall renew their
strength: they shall mount up with wings as
eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall
walk and not faint.

Our help is in the name
of the eternal God,
**who is making
the heavens and the earth.**

Psalm 23 *Read by two designated readers*

DEAR God,
you sustain me and feed me:
like a shepherd
you guide me.

*You lead me
to an oasis of green,
to lie down
by restful waters.*

You refresh my soul
for the journey,
and guide me
along trusted roads.

*Though I must enter
the darkness of death,
I will fear no evil.
For you are with me,
your rod and your staff
comfort me.*

You prepare a table
before my very eyes,
in the presence of those
who trouble me.

*You anoint my head
with oil,
and you fill my cup
to the brim.*

Your lovingkindness and mercy
will meet me
every day of my life,
*and I will dwell
in the house of my God
for ever.*

READING

SILENCE

PRAYERS

*We offer our prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, either silently
or aloud, and conclude with*

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lead us from death to life *(World Peace Prayer)*
Lead us from falsehood to truth
Lead us from despair to hope
Lead us from fear to trust
Lead us from hate to love
Lead us from war to peace
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our Universe.
Amen.

Let us bless the Life-Giver,
the Pain-Bearer, the Love-Maker;
**let us praise and exalt God
above all for ever.**

Notes on “Prayer in the Evening”

Members of Redeemer, Morristown have been using this form together in a nightly conference call, but it could also be used as a household or personal devotional. When we do it as a conference call it is preceded by a brief (3-5 minutes) check-in time, where those on the call who choose to may identify themselves. From designated “start time” until the end, including the brief check in, it takes 15-17 minutes.

We use www.freeconferencecall.com. We have changed the setting on the website so that there is no “doorbell” each time someone enters or leaves the call. To do this, log into your account, and then on the “Account Dashboard” page, click on “Settings.” Scroll down to “Meeting settings” and for “Entry and exit tones”, turn this to “off”.

The Host (officiant) arrives on the call approximately ten minutes before the designated start time and assigns four parts as people arrive and/or are willing:

- Two to share the reading of Psalm 23
- One to do the reading of the day
- One to do the World Peace Prayer (this follows the Lord’s Prayer)

3-5 minutes after the designated time, the host calls us to silence, and encourages us to let the distractions of the day rest.

We have used a variety of readings, some from the daily lectionary, some from Lesser Feasts and Fasts and some from contemporary literature. They have been sent out in a weekly mailing to the congregation in advance. *This service could easily be done with no reading.*

We have found that there is a certain amount of cacophony in the group responses, and certainly in the Lord’s Prayer. We acknowledge that it is inevitable, at times comforting, at times jarring and always Spirit-filled.

The service is a very abbreviated form from Jim Cotter’s excellent resource, [Prayer at Night’s Approaching](#) (Morehouse Publishing, 2012), which includes a longer form of prayer for each night of the week. Particularly notable are the varieties of forms for the Lord’s Prayer.

Jim Cotter was an Anglican priest whose work includes [Prayer at Day’s Dawn](#), [Prayer at Night’s Approaching](#), [Out of Silence... Into Silence](#), [Pilgrim Prayer](#), [Expectant](#), and others. [Prayer at Night’s Approaching](#) formed the basis for the service of Night Prayer in [A New Zealand Prayer Book | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa](#) (he is the author of what many refer to as the “New Zealand Lord’s Prayer”).

--Cynthia Black