

NEW ZEALAND NIGHT PRAYER [aangepast]

[Approach]

The angels of the Lord guard us throughout the night
and quieten the powers of darkness.

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

It is but lost labour 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.

My brothers and sisters,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way
my bright evening star.
We repent of the wrongs we have done.
Silence.

We have wounded your love
O God, heal us.
We stumble in darkness,
Light of the world, transfigure us.
We forget we are your home,
Spirit of God, dwell in us.
(Everyone lights their candle from the central flame.)

Holy Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame, burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

[Invocation]

Holy Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.
Let us worship the God of love.

Psalm 27

Of David.

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evil men advance against me
to devour my flesh,
when my enemies and my foes attack me,
they will stumble and fall
- 3 Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then will I be confident.
- 4 One thing I ask of the LORD,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end,
Amen.**

[Readings]

A. 1 John 1:5-7 | Walking in the light

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

B. Revelation 22:3-5

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

[Prayers]

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.
Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Preserve us, O God, while waking
and guard us while sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

[Song of Simeon]

Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.
At last, you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people, Israel.

Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
As in the beginning, so now and for ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy.

[The Lord's Prayer]

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name:
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.
Let us bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Let us bless and exalt God above all for ever.
May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

Lord it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be 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.**

Blessing

May the blessings of God rest upon you.
May God's peace abide in you
May God's presence illumine your heart
Now and forever more.
Amen.