

# *New Zealand Night Prayer*

*(from the prayer book of the Anglican Church of New Zealand)*

*(The people's responses are in **bold**.)*

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.**

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 for our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of 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 the wrongs we have done:

*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.**

Eternal 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.

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,  
**that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the God of love.

**Psalm**

Psalm 31

O God, I have come to you for shelter:  
let me never be put to shame.  
Deliver me in the justice of your ways:  
incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.  
Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:  
for you are my rock and my stronghold.  
Lead me and guide me for your name's sake:  
deliver me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,  
for you are my strength.  
Into your hands I commit my spirit,  
for you will redeem me, eternal God of truth.

## Reading

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful as your father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you; for the measure you give will be the measure you receive. *Luke 6:27-38*

## Hymn

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

## 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.**

## ORDINARY DAYS

**Preserve us, O God, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in your peace.**  
**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 God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**  
**Preserve us, O God, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,**

that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in your peace.

### The Lord's Prayer *(for New Zealand)*

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### Song

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
**for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**  
Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
**let us praise 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 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 bless us and keep us,  
God's face shine on us and be gracious to us,  
and give us light and peace.

*and*

Christ be within us to keep us, beside us to guard,  
before us to lead, behind us to protect,  
beneath us to support, above us to bless.

*The service concludes*

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**