

Anglican Night Prayer
An Order for Compline



Grace Episcopal Church
Waycross, GA
Thursday, October 30, 2025
7:00 pm

An Anglican Order for Compline

About Compline in the Church of England

Compline in the Church of England began as the ancient late-evening office of the Western Church, but at the Reformation Thomas Cranmer deliberately combined Vespers and Compline to create Evensong, so the 1549/1552 and later 1662 Book of Common Prayer did not contain a separate Compline rite. Interest in a distinct office resurfaced in the early 20th century: a form of Compline appeared in the proposed 1928 Prayer Book (never authorized by Parliament) and nevertheless spread in parish, collegiate, and cathedral use. Since 2000, Compline has been formally restored and widely used through Common Worship: Night Prayer (Compline)—a brief, quiet service with confession, psalmody (often Psalms 4, 91, and 134), a short reading, the Nunc Dimittis, collects, and a simple dismissal—available in both contemporary and traditional language.

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

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

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

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

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

For those beloved of God are given gifts
even while they sleep.

Dear God, we 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 of one another, for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

Merciful God, we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive what we have been, accept us as we are, and guide what we shall be.

O God of mercy, you forgive our past sin, you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life, you shape us for glory. O God of mercy, we thank you.

To you before the close of day, Creator of all things, we pray that, in your saving constancy, our guard and keeper you would be.

Save us from troubled, restless sleep; from all ill dreams your children keep. So calm our minds that fears may cease and rested bodies wake in peace.

A healthy life we ask of you: the fire of love in us renew, and when the dawn new light will bring, your praise and glory we shall sing.

Almighty Father, hear our cry through Jesus Christ, our Lord, most high, whom with the Spirit we adore forever and for evermore.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4.6–10

It is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Thanks be to God.

Silence

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Antiphon

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

The Song of Simeon (Luke 2.29–32)

Lord, now 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.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon

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

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayer

Silence

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 and rests 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.

Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home.

May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace;

may all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

Amen.

Keep watch, dear God, 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.

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the earth which nurtures us and the life we live:

watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the peace of the whole world, we pray to you:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For those who are weary, sleepless, or depressed, we pray to you:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry, sick, or frightened, we pray to you:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For rest and refreshment, we pray to you:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

The leader may invite the gathered community to offer their own prayers silently or aloud, and bring the time of prayer to a close by saying the following collect or any one of the daily collects.

Gracious God, support us all the daylong of this earthly life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, O God, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all forever.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury



Dame Sarah Mullally has been named as the new Archbishop of Canterbury designate - the first woman to be chosen for the role.

A former NHS chief nurse, the 63-year-old became a priest in 2006 and was appointed as the first female

Bishop of London in 2018 - the third most senior member of clergy in the Church of England.

Women were first ordained priests in the Church in 1994, while the first female bishop appointments followed 20 years later in 2014

In line with tradition, the process of choosing a new archbishop involves a name being given to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and then passed to the monarch.

Sir Keir has welcomed Dame Sarah's appointment, saying: "I wish her every success and look forward to working together."

While, technically, the King is head of the Church of England, the person holding the role of Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop and is the spiritual leader of the Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

King Charles III has congratulated Dame Sarah on her new role, "which is of such importance in the UK and across the global Anglican Communion", Buckingham Palace said.