



***Approach***

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.**

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.

*Silence*

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.

***Invocation***

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

**Let us worship the God of love. Alleluia, alleluia.**

***Psalm 65***

*(A Version for New Zealand)*

Praise is your due O God in the holy city;  
promises made to you shall be fulfilled;  
prayer you always listen to.

You accept all who come to you with shame;  
sin would overwhelm us, but you wash it away.

Blest is anyone you choose to live with you;  
your house is an inspiration, a hallowed place.

You spread your justice, God our Saviour,  
across the world to the farthest oceans.

You have laid down the mountain ranges and set them fast;  
you make the seas calm and the sounds peaceful;  
you reconcile the peoples who dwell here.

So in this corner of the earth we wonder at your deeds;  
at the meeting of east and west we sing your praise.

You water the land and make it flourish,  
from your own bursting river.

To provide our crops, you plough and irrigate the land,  
softening it with rain to make it fruitful;  
a record harvest is achieved, and the stores are overflowing.

The tussock land becomes pasture  
and the brown hills turn green;  
the paddocks are crowded with sheep  
and the plains thick with wheat:  
the world itself a canticle of praise.

### ***Reading***

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 1 John 4:18–20

### ***Meditation and Collect***

#### ***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.**

**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.**

#### ***Song of Simeon/Nunc Dimittis***

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.

I ask for your intercessions...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

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

## ***Thanksgiving***

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.

## ***Sentence of the Day***

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.

## ***Final Versicle***

The divine Spirit dwells in us.  
**Thanks be to God.**