



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

FBCH Lent 2023 Compline

Adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book

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 siblings, 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.

Give us strength for our Lenten journey,
lead us in the Way of Jesus.

Psalm

MARCH 1: PSALM 36

Sin speaks to the wicked deep in their heart: there is no fear of God before their eyes.

They flatter themselves in their own sight: that their iniquity will not be found out and hated.

The words of their mouth are mischief and deceit: they have ceased to act wisely and do good.

They plot mischief as they lie in bed: they are set on a source that is not good, and hold back from nothing that is evil.

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens: your faithfulness up to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your judgments are like the great deep: you LORD save both people and beasts.

How precious is your steadfast love O God: mortals take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the rich abundance of your house: you give them drink from the stream of your delights.

For with you is the well of life: and in your light we see light.

Continue your loving kindness to those who know you: and your justice to the true of heart.

Let not the foot of pride come against me: nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

There are they fallen, those who do evil: they are thrown down and unable to rise.

MARCH 8: PSALM 32

Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven: whose sin has been put away.

Blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no guilt: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I held back from confessing my sin: my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night: I was dried up and withered, as it were by drought in summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you: my guilt I did not hide.

I said, 'I will confess my sins to the LORD': and so you forgave the wickedness of my sin.

Therefore let all those that are faithful pray to you in time of trouble: when great flood-water rises, it shall not come near them.

You are a place to hide me in, you will preserve me from trouble: you will surround me with shouts of deliverance.

'I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go: I will keep you under my eye and give you counsel.

Be not like horse or mule, which have no understanding: whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked: but whoever trusts in the LORD is surrounded by steadfast love.

Be glad you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD: shout for joy all you that are upright in heart.

MARCH 15: PSALM 141

LORD I call to you, come quickly to my help: give heed to me when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set before you as incense: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a guard O LORD over my mouth: and keep watch at the door of my lips.

Keep my heart from any sinful inclination, from joining the ill-disposed in their wickedness: and let me never eat at their table.

Rather let the righteous strike me: and give me friendly rebuke, than that the oil of the wicked should anoint my head: for I pray continually against their wickedness.

But my eyes are fixed on you LORD God: in you I take refuge, do not cast me off.

Keep me from the snare they have laid for me: and from the traps evil doers have set.

Let the wicked fall together into their own nets: while I pass by unharmed.

MARCH 22: PSALM 15

LORD, who may be a guest in your house: or who may dwell on your holy mountain?

One who leads a blameless life: who does what is right, and speaks truthfully from the heart,

whose tongue is free from malice, who never wrongs a friend: and utters no reproach against a neighbour,

who does not honour the unworthy: but makes much of those who fear the LORD.

Such a one stands by a promise given: though it be at personal disadvantage,

and will not take interest on a loan: nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.

Whoever does all this: shall never be overthrown.

MARCH 29: PSALM 130

Out of the depths have I called to you O LORD: give heed O LORD to my cry.

Let your ears consider well: the plea I make for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss: who then O LORD could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you: therefore you shall be revered.

I wait for you LORD with all my soul: and in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for you O LORD: more than those who watch by night long for the morning, more I say than those who watch by night long for the morning.

Wait in hope for the LORD, for with the LORD there is love unfailing: and with the LORD there is ample redemption.

The LORD will redeem you: from all your many sins.

Reading

MARCH 1

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 God 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.

From Luke 6:27-38

MARCH 8

Do not ask anxiously, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What shall we wear?" The whole world runs after such things. Set your heart and mind on God's commonwealth and justice first, and all the rest will come to you as well. So do not be anxious about tomorrow. Today has enough problems of its own; tomorrow can look after itself.

Matthew 6:31-34

MARCH 15

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 their sibling, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their siblings whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

1 John 4:18-20

MARCH 22

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 earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to 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 manifested in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

MARCH 29

According to the riches of God's glory, may you be strengthened with might through the Holy Spirit in your inner being, and may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Music for Reflection

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 your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Antiphon

**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

**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.**

Antiphon

**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

**Our Creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day 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 for ever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

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

MARCH 1
O God of love and mercy,
grant us, with all your people, rest and peace.

MARCH 8
God bless and keep us,
God's face shine on us and be gracious to us,
and give us light and peace.

MARCH 15
To God the Creator,
who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,
to God the Redeemer,
who loves us and by dying and rising
pioneered the way of freedom,
to God the Sanctifier,
who spreads the divine love in our hearts,
be praise and glory for time and for eternity.

MARCH 22

O God,
strengthen your servants with your heavenly grace,
that we may be yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,
until we come to your everlasting kingdom.

MARCH 29

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.

