




Ministers' Conference 2024

Worship

Tuesday 19 November, 9.30pm

Celtic Night Prayer



Our service is led by Richard Stainer

Opening responses

In the beginning,
when it was very dark,
God said, 'Let there be light.'
And there was light.

A candle is placed centrally

In the beginning,
when it was very quiet,
the Word was with God.
And what God was, the Word was.

An open Bible is placed centrally

When the time was right,
God sent the Son.
**He came among us;
he was one of us.**

A cross is placed centrally

This is the time
When light fades
And shadows lengthen
And sounds are subdued
All as God intended
Amen

This is the time
When bodies relax
Minds unwind
And tiredness comes
All as God intended

Amen

This is the time,
When others greet the morning,
While we meet the night,
And the world continues to sing,
In all the accents of creation,
A love song to its maker,

Blessed be God's Name.

Come brother Jesus be our guest,
Stay with us for the day is ending.

Bring to this place your poverty,
for then we shall be rich.

Bring to this place your pain,
that in sharing it, we may also share your joy

Bring to this place your understanding of us,
that we may be freed to learn more of you.

Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,
that we and all things might be made new

With friend, with stranger,
with the unknown and well-known ones
be among us tonight
**for the doors of this house are open
and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar**

Scripture

In the world, many things happen at night:
people travel, people meet
people have secret conversations
people lie awake restless,
people sleep through exhaustion.
And this has always been so,
holy books bear witness to it.
So let us here a night story from the Bible.

A reading from the 1st letter of Peter

Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

1 Peter 5:8,9

Prayer

What if the darkness covers us
and the day around us turns to night?
Darkness is not too dark for God
to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray

You never sleep, God.
You are always awake, always watching,
always willing the world and its people
to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep
because of illness, or worry, or fear; or for reasons they
cannot understand.
God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wait patiently or
impatiently for a birth or a death, for a visit, or for the
pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.
God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,
who look for inspiration,
who long to be with the one or the ones they love,
who hope to recognise the right time when they can say
'I'm sorry,' or 'I love you,' or even 'Enough is enough.'
God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys
or sorrows, discoveries or questions we will take with us
into this night.

God be near us,

God be near us,

.
Into your hands we commit ourselves –
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –
for all things come from you
and are best kept in your care

Amen

Song

Embracing love, enfolds, abounds
Within the depths of being.
It shines, vibrates in sight and sound
In those with minds for seeing.

The ground and source of light and life
Is there for all to see.
Open your eyes and free your mind
And let God's presence be.

All present God join in the dance
With all humanity.
Your dreams of freedom, love to all
In our diversity.

Jesus redeemer and our lord
Our path to the Divine.
Teach us of freedom love and life
Today and for all time.

Embracing love enfolds, abounds
Within the depths of being.
It shines vibrates in sight and sound
In those with minds for seeing.

*Monty Lynds © 2009 (Words)
Tune Amazing Grace*

Closing responses

For the day now done
Thanks be to God.

For the rest before us
Thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps so that we can
Thanks be to God.

But before the day is done
Let God's holy name be praised
And let God's people say Amen
Amen

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