

Celtic Night Prayer



Celtic Night Prayer

Leader: Shadows lengthen, darkness thickens.
The lights are lit
and the day we have lived through comes to an end.

Let us worship the God who separated light from darkness
All: Hallowed be his name

Leader: Let us worship the God who ordered the birth of the stars
All: Hallowed be his name

Leader: Who watches over us, unsleeping, night and day
All: Hallowed be his name

Leader Through our nights and days
Through our sleeping and waking
Through our resting and working
All: Keep us mindful of your presence, holy God.

Leader: Through places of darkness
When we cannot see
When we stumble
All: Keep us faithful of your love.

Leader: When evil threatens
Deceiving and unnerving us
Masquerading as light
All: Keep us mindful of your strong protection.

Leader: Let us pray:

We call to mind those whose work is just beginning and those who are dreading this night.
All: Lord have mercy

Leader: We call to mind those who will have no shelter or adequate accommodation; those for whom the comfort of sleep does not come and whose minds cannot rest.
All: Lord have mercy

Leader: We call to mind those who are ill or in pain, for whom the night will drag: for the anxious, lonely and forgotten who have no one to be with them.

All: Lord have mercy.

Leader: Keep us and those for whom we pray safe, O Lord, in the darkness of this night.

All: Amen.

Hymn:

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

They shall see God's face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more; they shall not need light of lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall enlighten them, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22: 4-5

Psalm 139: 1-12

O Lord, you have searched me and known me

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there
If I make my bed in the grave, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen

A Reflection may be given here, followed by some gentle music.

Leader: We will lie down in peace and take our rest
All: for it is you, Lord, who makes us dwell in safety.

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

All: The Lord will keep

**your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

Leader: We will lie down in peace and take our rest
All: for it is you, Lord, who makes us dwell in safety.

Prayers, concluding with:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil, Amen.**

Leader: Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit
**All: For you have redeemed us, Lord God of
truth.**

Leader: May we do the will of God, sharing in the
death of Christ
All: and rise in the light of heaven.

Leader: May we rest safely this night, sleep in perfect
peace
All: and rise with the morning light.

Leader: May the Father watch over our beds, Christ fill our dreams
All: and the angels guard our souls.

Leader: May the peace of the Spirit be ours this night,
May the peace of the Son be ours this night,
May the peace of the Father be ours this night,
Each morning, each evening, and for
evermore.
All: Amen