

**Night Prayer At Home,  
All Saints' Cottenham  
with Rampton  
Sunday 26 September 2021**



**Preparation**

The eternal God  
is your refuge,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a  
perfect end.

**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

***Take a moment to think about the day gone  
by, giving thanks for what was good  
and bringing to God those times that need His  
forgiveness.***

**Lord God,  
We have sinned against you;  
We have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

***Take a moment to thank God that through  
Jesus' sacrifice we are forgiven.***

Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake  
we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.

# Psalm for Sunday 26 September 2021

## Night Prayer

### **Psalm 134**

1 Come, bless the Lord,  
all you servants of the Lord, ♦  
you that by night  
stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦  
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦  
give you blessing out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Scripture for Sunday 26 September 2021

### Night Prayer

#### Jeremiah 14.9

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us,  
and we are called by your name;  
leave us not, O Lord our God!

#### Short talk

That verse from Jeremiah is very old and yet very new. It's a classic case of confident faith one moment, doubt and fear the next.

One moment we're wonderfully confident:

*You, O Lord, are in the midst of us  
and we are called by your name.*

The next moment we are doubtful, afraid:

*leave us not, O Lord our God!*

Everyone feels like that at times, even the most holy of people. It's part of being human. But wonderfully, God is always with us, wherever we are.

‘The Message’ version of that verse from Jeremiah puts it like this:

*GOD, you are, in fact, **here**, here **with us!**  
You know who we are—you named us!  
Don’t leave us without a leg to stand on.*

Human legs come into tonight’s Psalm. It’s the shortest ‘Psalm of Ascent’, memorised by Jewish pilgrims to sing as they walked up to the Temple in Jerusalem for various festivals. We know also from stories about Jesus’s healing events that some people were carried by others up to the Temple to worship. Either way, there was much joy in the journey.

Last week I read about an experiment testing happiness. Participants had two options. They could wait, doing nothing, in a room for 15 minutes for the experiment to start. Or they could choose to walk for 15 minutes to another venue to do the experiment. Most people chose to wait, doing nothing. Very few chose to walk, unless they were forced to, or were told they’d get chocolate at the other venue. Yet the researchers found that those

who'd spent 15 minutes walking ended up significantly happier than those who'd spent 15 minutes waiting idly – no matter whether they'd had a choice or chocolate or neither.

So thank you for choosing to get to your computer and log in tonight! You may not have walked far but it's worth the effort. We are together in virtual space at the same time as being in completely different houses, in different streets. We've chosen to join in this service, trusting, or maybe hoping, that God is with us. God doesn't mind where we are.

Here is a new prayerful poem by Malcolm Guite reflecting on Psalm 134. He write about 'gathering in one love and in one place'. That works whether the place is a church building or a virtual space.

## A prayer poem based on Psalm 134

To gather in one love and in one place,  
To lift our hands up in the sanctuary,  
Singing by candlelight and face to face,

Bathing our souls in love's own liturgy,  
Praising the God who made both earth and heaven,  
Sensing his presence and his mystery,

To give him thanks for all that we are given,  
Is both a joy and blessing. Evening falls;  
We end the day redeemed, fulfilled, forgiven,

Ready to rest in him; and, when he calls,  
To rise with him and greet the day with praise,  
That all this hallowed ground, the courts and halls

Which echoed with our evening prayer, may raise  
A new song in the morning, that his name  
May bless our nights and sanctify our days.

Malcolm Guite, 2021

So our Evening/Night Prayer continues with  
prayers of intercession.

## Prayers for ourselves and for others

God of love, in whom all our wounds are healed and our suffering is soothed, send into our spirits your healing mercy. We pray that all that is hurting within us may be comforted and all that is broken within us made whole.

**We pray for our own healing.**

**Silence.**

We pray that we would be enabled to bring to those we meet words of encouragement, hope and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We pray for the grace and care to listen to and encourage others we know are in need.**

**We name them to you, God.**

**Silence.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may Your holy angels dwell with us  
and guard us in peace,  
and may Your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

As the night watch  
looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you,  
O Christ.**



The Lord bless us  
and watch over us;  
the Lord make His face  
shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us  
and give us peace.

**Amen.**

Materials are drawn from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Common Worship: Pastoral Services, and Common Worship: Daily Prayer, all of which are copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. The Bible readings are from the NRSV Anglicised version. The poem is from Malcolm Guite's book *David's Crown, sounding the Psalms*, Norwich: Canterbury Press 2021. Intercessions draw from *The Canterbury Book of New Parish Prayers* by M.J. Kramer, Norwich: Canterbury Press 2020.