



# SAINT JOHN'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Rooted in God, Growing in Faith*

### *Compline Worship*

**May 8, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

576 Concord Rd.      Glen Mills, PA 19342  
Phone: 610-459-2994      SaintJohnsConcord.com

*Founded 1702 - Celebrating 323 Years of Worship*

**The Rev Jill M. LaRoche Wikel – Rector**  
**The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Priest Associate**  
**The Rev. Elizabeth Brickle – Deacon**

**Mission of Saint John's:** To be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

*Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God.  
St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.*

*Julian of Norwich, Mystic and Theologian c. 1417*



### Compline

*The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night.*

*As the psalmist wrote:*

*I lie down in peace and take rest my rest for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.*

*Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centred spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood before God. [New Zealand Book of Common Prayer]*

#### **Approach**

**Celebrant:** The angels of God guard us through the night,

**People:** and quieten the powers of darkness.

**Celebrant:** The Spirit of God be our guide      **People:** to lead us to peace and to glory.

**Celebrant:** 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.*

**Celebrant:** My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,

**People:** who is making the heavens and the earth.

## *Night Prayer*

*Celebrant:* 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*

*Celebrant:* We have wounded your love.      ***People:* O God, heal us.**

*Celebrant:* We stumble in the darkness.      ***People:* Light of the world transfigure us.**

*Celebrant:* We forget that we are your home.      ***People:* Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

*Celebrant:* 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**

*Celebrant:* Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,

***People:* that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

*Celebrant:* Let us worship the God of love.

***People:* Alleluia, alleluia.**      *(please be seated)*

### **Reading # 1**

*Celebrant:* A Reading from Isaiah.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.'

Can a woman forget her nursing-child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her  
womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my  
hands; your walls are continually before me.

Your builders outdo your destroyers,  
and those who laid you waste go away from you.

Lift up your eyes all around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.

As I live, says the Lord,  
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,  
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

*Silence may follow the reading.*

### **Psalm 27:7-11**

### ***Dominus illuminatio***

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in  
his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my  
face." \*  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.

*Silence may follow the reading.*

## Reading # 2

*Celebrant:* A reading from Hebrews.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

*Silence may follow the reading.*

## Reading # 3

*Celebrant:* A reading from Matthew.

Jesus said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## Reflection

*Celebrant:* Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. *Amen.*

*Silence may follow the reflection.*

## Hymn

## *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

## Hymnal #657

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be alway blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

- 3 Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Love divine, all loves excelling*, #657 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

## Prayers

*Celebrant*: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

***People***: for you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

*Celebrant*: Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye;

***People***: hide me under the shadow of your wings.

## ORDINARY DAYS

***People***: 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*

***People***: 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.** *The antiphon may be repeated.*

***People***: 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.

*Celebrant*: Lord, have mercy.

***People***: Christ, have mercy.

*Celebrant*: Lord have mercy.

***The Lord's Prayer*** (*alternative*)

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.**

*The minister and people pray responsively.*

*Celebrant:* I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
***People:* for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.**

*Celebrant:* Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,  
***People:* let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.**

*Celebrant:* May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,  
***People:* glorified and exalted above all for ever.**

***Sentence of the Day and Final Versicle.***

*Celebrant:* 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. ***People:* Amen.**

**Sentence of the Day: THURSDAY**

*Celebrant:* 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 service concludes*

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

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