



SAINT JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

Compline Worship

April 16, 2026 6:30 p.m.

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

Founded 1702 - Celebrating 324 Years of Worship

The Rev Jill M. LaRoche Wikel – Rector
The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Pastoral Care Chaplain
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.*

Compline

Peter William Casey Deacon, 1917 & Anna Besant Casey, 1875

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 *(please stand)*

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)*

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

The clever see danger and hide;
but the simple go on, and suffer for it.

The reward for humility and fear of the Lord
is riches and honor and life.

Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse;
the cautious will keep far from them.

Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray.

The rich rules over the poor,
and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from Psalm 13

¹ How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?

² How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my
God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

⁴ Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over
him," *
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

⁵ But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

richly; *
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus taught, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Reflection

Silence may follow the reflection.

Celebrant: Let us pray: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

Hymn (*please stand*)

This Little Light of Mine

LEVAS 221

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This Little Light of Mine, #221 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arr. Copyright © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer.

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.**