SAINT JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rooted in God, Growing in Faith

Compline Worship
November 12, 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.

Charles Simeon – Priest, 1836

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 Amos

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

the notables of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel resorts!

Cross over to Calneh, and see;
from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is your territory greater than their territory,

O you that put far away the evil day,
and bring near a reign of violence?

Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,

and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;

who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;

who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Silence may follow the reading.

Psalm 108 ***Paratum cor meum***

1 My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; *
I will sing and make melody.

2 Wake up, my spirit;
awake, lute and harp; *
I myself will waken the dawn.

3 I will confess you among the peoples, O Lord; *
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

4 For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, *
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

5 Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.

6 So that those who are dear to you may be delivered, *
save with your right hand and answer me.

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from Ephesians

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Silence may follow the reading.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reflection

Silence may follow the reflection.

Celebrant: Loving God, whose unerring wisdom and unbounded love order all things: Grant us in all things to see your hand; that, following the example and teaching of your servant Charles Simeon, we may walk with Christ in all simplicity and serve you with a quiet and contented mind; 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)* ***Lord of All Hopefulness*** **Hymnal 482**

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,

your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, #482 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Slane,* Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary,*1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982.*

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.**

C*elebrant:* 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.**