



The Parish of Ewhurst  
with Okewood & Forest Green

# Night Prayer

## Preparation

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

**All Amen.**

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

*A period of silence for reflection on the  
past day may follow.  
The following or other suitable words of  
penitence may be used.*

**All Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven  
and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word  
and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ.  
Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**All 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.  
Alleluia.**

*The following or other suitable hymn may  
be sung.*

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.

## The Word of God

*Psalms 139*

*Refrain:* Search me out, O God,  
and know my heart.

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and  
known me; you know my sitting down and  
my rising up; you discern my thoughts from  
afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting  
place and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, but  
you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I  
make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me  
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made; marvellous are your  
works, my soul knows well.

- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was made in secret and woven in  
the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet  
unfinished; already in your book were all  
my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned when as  
yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number  
than the sand, and at the end, I am still in  
your presence.

*Refrain:* Search me out, O God,  
and know my heart.

Creator God,  
may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep show you as our way,  
that, trusting in your presence in this  
world, we may, beyond this life, still be with  
you where you are alive and reign  
for ever and ever.

*At the end of the psalmody the following is  
said or sung:*

**All 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 Reading

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the  
bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the  
yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break  
every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with  
the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into  
your house; when you see the naked, to cover  
them, and not to hide yourself from your own  
kin? - *Isaiah 58. 6,7*

*The following responsory may be said*

Into your hands, O Lord,  
I commend my spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord,  
I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me,  
Lord God of truth.

**All I commend my spirit.**  
Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord,  
I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**All Hide me under the shadow  
of your wings.**

### Gospel Cantic

*The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said  
or sung.*

**All Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in  
peace: your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation which  
you have prepared in the sight of every  
people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**All 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.**

**All Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

### Prayers

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be  
offered here.*

### The Collect

*Silence may be kept.*

Almighty God, may we,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent,  
enter into the mystery of Christ's  
sufferings;  
that by following in the Way,  
we may come to share in the glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be said.*

### The Conclusion

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

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**All for the night is at hand  
and the day is now past.**

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

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.