



Watch-Night Service

Please use the time before the service to put your Offering into the yellow envelope. If you are a tax-payer, write your name and post-code on the outside. This will enable us to collect an extra 25% on your gift at no further cost to you. Thank you.

Please stand in silence at the sound of the gong.

In the darkness:





The Lord is my light my light and salvation.

A light is brought in

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began **God was.**

Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, **God is.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment **God will be.**

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit **God was, God is, God will be.**

The Lord is my light my light and salvation.

Candles are lit

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be glory and praise for ever! You give the sun for light by day, the moon and the stars to govern the night; in the changing year, your light never fails. At the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the starry heavens are the work of your hand: they shall perish worn out like a garment; but you are the same, and your years will never fail. Teach us to number our days; receive us into your merciful protection. that we may walk in the light, and be led to the perfect vision of glory, where with the saints of every age and nation you live and reign in majesty for ever. Amen.

Hymn

- Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here; come bow before Him now with reverence and fear:
 in him no sin is found we stand on holy ground.

 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
- Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
 He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned: how awesome is the sight our radiant King of light!
 Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace - no work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans (b. 1957) © 1986 Kinksway Thankyou Music

Bidding

Dear friends in Christ,
with joy we come to welcome another new year.
We stand in the presence of the Lord of Time,
the one through whom all creation exists.
We inherit the achievements and failures
of those who have gone before us.
We stand with all with whom we share the future.

Let us pray

Collect

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading Revelation 21. 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End".

Hymn NEH 342

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure, Until with thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly thine, Until this earthly part of me Glows with the fire divine. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die, But live with thee the perfect life Of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, The beginning and the end.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Silent Reflection

on the year that is past and the year that lies ahead.

The Renewal of the Covenant

Sit God made a covenant with the people of Israel,

calling them to be a holy nation,

chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law.

The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord,

in his life, work, death and resurrection.

In him all people may be set free from sin and its power,

and united in love and obedience.

In this covenant God promises us new life in Christ.

For our part we promise to live no longer for ourselves but for God.

We meet, therefore, as generations have met before us,

to renew the covenant which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then seek forgiveness for the sin

by which we have denied God's claim upon us.

Let us pray.

Stand God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.

reluctant to follow him.

and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,

For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ.

the formality and selfishness of our prayers.

our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace.

and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts,

evade our responsibilities,

and fail to be good stewards of your creation:

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good, tolerant of injustice, quick to condemn, and selfish in sharing your love with others:

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, forgive.

Silence

Have mercy on me, O God,
in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit.

Psalm 51. 1-2, 11, 13

The presiding minister says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all our sins that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
Let us again claim for ourselves
this covenant which God has made with his people,
and take upon us the yoke of Christ.
This means that we are content
that he appoint us our place and work,
and that he himself be our reward.

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full. let me be empty. let me have all things. let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth. let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

As we have entered this covenant not for ourselves alone, but as God's servants and witnesses, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

sit Intercessions

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known in our world.

Faithful God glorify your name.

In a world of change and hope, of fear and adventure, faithful God, glorify your name.

In human rebellion and obedience, in our seeking and our finding, faithful God,

glorify your name.

In the common life of our society, in prosperity and need, faithful God,

glorify your name.

As your Church proclaims your goodness in words and action, faithful God,

glorify your name.

Among our friends and in our homes, faithful God,

glorify your name.

In our times of joy, in our days of sorrow, faithful God, glorify your name.

In our strengths and triumphs, in our weakness and at our death, faithful God,

glorify your name.

In your saints in glory and on the day of Christ's coming, faithful God.

glorify your name.

Stand Hymn

(During this hymn a collection is taken)

Through the love of God, our Saviour, all will be well; free and changeless is his favour, all will be well; precious is the blood that healed us, perfect is the grace that sealed us, strong the hand stretched out to shield us, all will be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well; ours is such a full salvation, all will be well. happy when in God confiding, fruitful if in Christ abiding, holy through the Spirit's guiding, all will be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well; faith can sing through days of sorrow, all will be well; on our Father's love relying, Jesus every need supplying in our living, in our dying, all will be well.

Silence

In the hope of God's kingdom, let us pray as Jesus taught us 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 your, now and forever.
Amen.

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and Share his peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you, and also with you.

DISMISSAL

Jesus, Lord of time **hold us in your eternity.**

Jesus, image of God travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners heal the brokenness of your world.

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow draw us into your future. Amen.

To a troubled world **Peace from Christ.**

To a searching world **Love from Christ.**

To a waiting world **Hope from Christ.**

And I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light, and safer then a known way".

May God the Father keep you in all your days.

May God the Son shield you in all your ways.

May God the Holy Spirit bring you healing and peace.

May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you

And pour upon you blessing and light.

Amen.

Let us go in peace to serve $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}$ and our neighbour in all that we do.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Hymn SP 13

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, still many thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell

Wishing you a happy and blessed new year

Hugh of Lincoln

Hugh was born at Avalon in Burgundy in 1140 and at first made his profession with the Augustinian canons but, when he was twenty-five, he became a monk at Grande Chartreuse. In about 1175, he was invited by the English king, Henry II, to become prior of his Charterhouse foundation at Witham in Somerset, badly in need of reform even though it had been only recently founded. In 1186, Hugh was persuaded to accept the See of Lincoln. then the largest diocese in the land. He brought huge energy to the diocese and, together with discerning appointments to key posts, he revived the Lincoln schools, repaired and enlarged the cathedral, visited the See extensively, drew together the clergy to meet in synod and generally brought an efficiency and stability to the Church which was to be much emulated. Hugh also showed great compassion for the poor and the oppressed, ensuring that sufferers of leprosy were cared for and that Jews were not persecuted. He both supported his monarch and also held out against any royal measures he felt to be extreme, yet managing not to make an enemy of the king. He died in London on this day in the year 1200.

A wild swan, his pet, is said to have followed him constantly about his house and grounds and became his symbol.

