



Evening Prayer / Office of the Dead for Diane Bell

“As I reflect on this season of Advent, I am reminded again - of the literal darkness in our part of the world. The Sun says farewell in the late afternoon for these weeks leading up to the season of Christmas. Yes, the darkness is early and the evening is long indeed!

But....the Psalmist [Psalm 147] reminds us of the greatness of God in these challenging days. In the midst of the darkness, there are God’s everlasting promises. Sustaining the humble, satisfying us with the gift of food to strengthen us, the sun and rain to replenish the earth....and....loving us unfailingly! On a clear night, I look up and see the Pleiades and Orion in the east. Giving thanks, I am again reminded that God determines the number of the stars and calls them by name. And God calls us - in, and through the darkness.” - Diane Bell (2018)

Bell x3

Gathering:

Let our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense.
The lifting up of our hands an evening sacrifice.

Song: Phos Hilaron

Hail Gladdening Light, sun so bright
Jesus Christ, end of night,
Alleluia, Alleluia
Hail Gladdening Light, Eternal Bright
at evening time, 'round us shine,
Alleluia, Alleluia

And we hymn the Father we hymn the Son,
we hymn the Spirit Holy divine
No one more worthy of songs to be sung
To the giver of life all glory is Thine

Hail Gladdening Light,
such joyous Light
O Brilliant Star, forever shine,
Alleluia, Alleluia

Responses:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
**that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

The Psalm:

Psalm 8 *Domine, Dominus noster*

¹ O 'Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in 'all the world!
² Out of the mouths of in-'fants and children *
your majesty is praised a-'bove the heavens.
You have set up a stronghold against your 'adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and 'the avenger.
³ When I consider your heavens, the work 'of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set 'in their courses,
⁴ what are mortals that you should be mind-'ful of them, *
their children that you should 'seek them out?
⁵ You have made them but little lower 'than the angels; *
you adorn them with glo-'ry and honour;
⁶ you give them mastery over the works 'of your hands; *
you put all things un-'der their feet;
⁷ all 'sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts 'of the field,
⁸ the birds of the air, the fish 'of the sea, *
and all that walks in the paths 'of the sea.
⁹ O 'Lord our governor, *
how exalted is your name in 'all the world!

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

- ¹ I lift up my eyes ¹to the hills; *
from where is my ¹help to come?
- ² My help comes ¹from the Lord, *
the maker of heav-¹en and earth.
- ³ The Lord will not let your ¹foot be moved *
and the One who watches over you will not ¹fall asleep.
- ⁴ Behold, the One who keeps watch ¹over Israel *
shall neither slum-¹ber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord, the Lord, watches ¹over you; *
the Lord is your shade ¹at your side,
- ⁶ so that the sun shall not strike ¹you by day, *
nor the ¹moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord shall preserve you ¹from all evil *
and shall ¹keep you safe.
- ⁸ The Lord shall watch over your going out and your ¹coming in, *
from this time forth for ¹evermore.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon her.

The Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for God has looked with favour on God's lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

**the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is God's Name.**

God has mercy on those who fear God *
in every generation.

God has shown the strength of God's arm, *
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich God has sent away empty.
God has come to the help of God's servant Israel, *
for God has remembered God's promise of mercy,
The promise God made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

The Gospel

A reading from Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32

Silence

The Song of Simeon Nunc Dimittis Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Silence

The Prayers

God of all consolation, you pursue us with untiring love and dispel the shadow of death with the bright dawn of life. Comfort Diane's family, friends and community in their loss and sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord, and lift us from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence.

Our prayers offered silently or aloud

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of your departed servant, Diane Bell; and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the communion of your Saints.

Our Father...

Commending:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them.
Eternal rest grant unto Diane, O Lord. + And let perpetual light
shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Sleep, O sleep in the calm of each calm.
Sleep, O sleep in the guidance of all guidance.
Sleep, O sleep in the love of all loves.
Sleep, O beloved, in the Lord of life.
Sleep, O beloved, in the God of life.

Song: All Through the Night

Your song will go with us. 3x
All through the night. 2x

Your wings will cover us. 3x
All through the night. 2x

Hope thou in God my child. 3x
All through the night. 2x

Blessing:

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless
and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes: in the
name of God; the Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Bell x3

Feel free to stay and pray quietly.