



Night Prayer
Rev. Karen Brau

OPENING



Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord, **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**



to herald your love in the morning, **your truth at the close of the day.**

Night Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,
I confess that I have sinned against you this day.
Some of my sin I know—
the thoughts and words and deeds
of which I am ashamed—
but some is known only to you.
In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness.
Deliver and restore me,
that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God
we are united with Jesus Christ,
in whom we are forgiven.
We rest now in the peace of Christ
and rise in the morning to serve.

REFLECTION

Again a message came to me from the Lord: “When your people ask you what your actions mean, say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take Ephraim and the northern tribes and join them to Judah. I will make them one piece of wood in my hand.’” Ezekiel 37:15 & 18-19 (NLT)

By Kenneth L. Samuel

Celebrations and expressions of diversity always pique my interest.

I’ve visited the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota and listened to Native Americans talk about why the memorial and the Black Hills region itself are so significant to their culture.

I’ve talked to Muslims in Dubai during Ramadan and gained so much insight into why Muslims designate a special time of the year to abstain from certain pleasures in order to focus on spiritual integrity and family unity.

I’ve dialogued with students in The Philippines, wrestling with the theological quest to be true to the Gospel of Christ while being responsible leaders in a repressive political context.

Diversity allows us to discover ourselves through the lenses of people who are very different from us.

Yet, the wondrous diversity of the globe must still acknowledge the oneness of the globe itself. All human diversity is some variant of the same humanity.

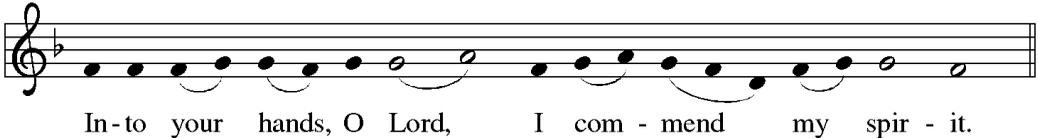
Pandemics remind us that everyone on the planet is in the hand of one global environment.

The universal need for sabbath reminds us that despite our religious distinctions, we are all in the hand of one transcendent Ground of Being.

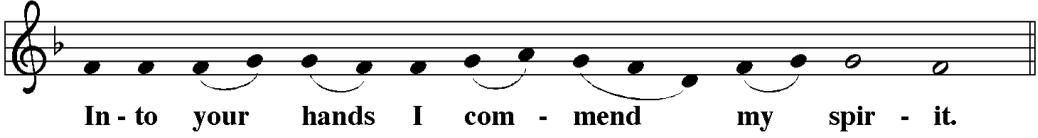
Elections in Paris, France remind people in Paris, Tennessee of how crucially interdependent the democracies of the world really are. Global economic stability rests upon the realization of divergent nations concerning their shared destiny, all in one hand.

Prayer

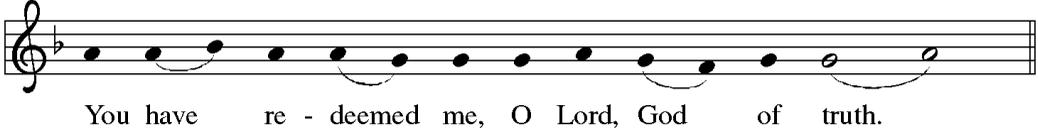
Lord, when we allow our differences to divide us, please continue to remind us, that you've still got the whole wide world in your hand. Amen.



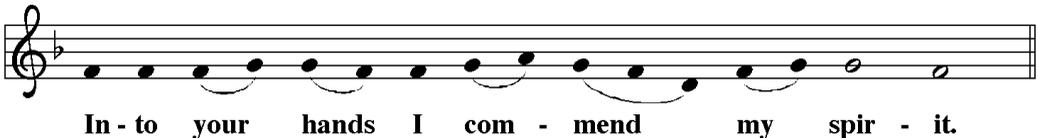
In-to your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



Glory to the Cre - a - tor and to the Christ, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

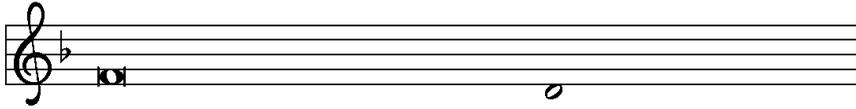


In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

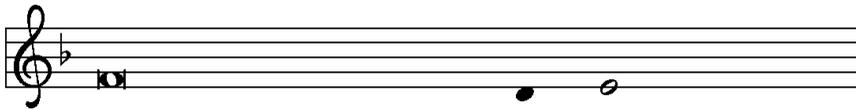
PRAYERS



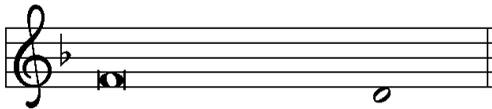
Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**



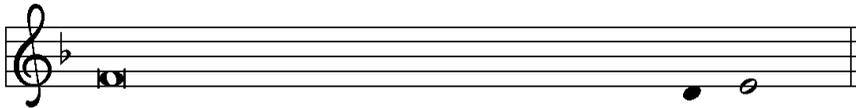
Keep me as the apple of your eye;



hide me in the shadow of your wings.



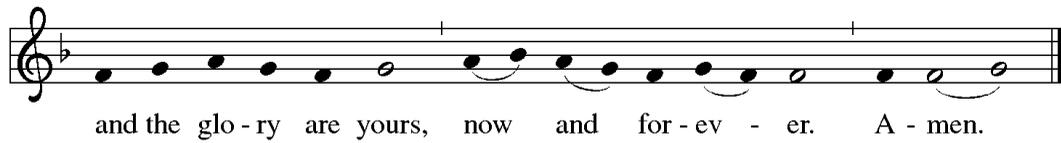
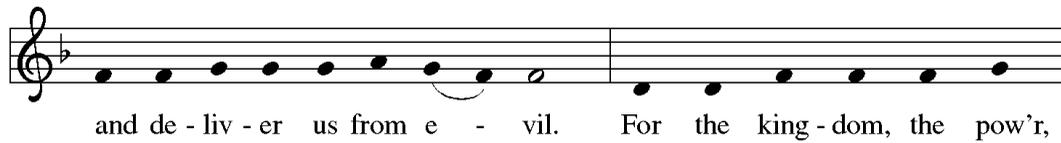
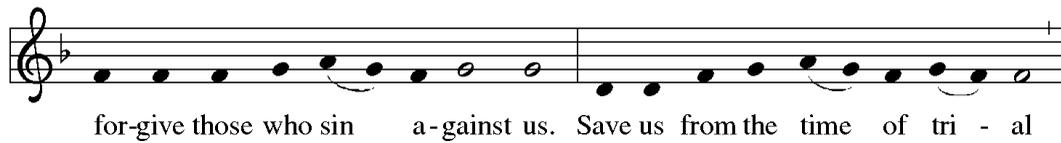
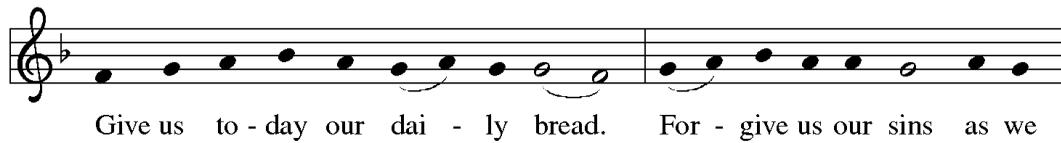
In hope I shall see you;



when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The night is the cover of your peace, O God,
the rhythm of your rest for all your people.
The darkness is the cloak of your gentleness, O God,
the warmth of your hand around the earth.
In its blackness is the sign of your eternity,
the never-ending living of your love.
In faith we go to sleep and leave our life to you.
In childlike trust we end our efforts of this day.
In our sleeping, be our company.
In our waking, be the gift of our new day.
We pray to God, our rest and comfort, in the words Jesus taught us:

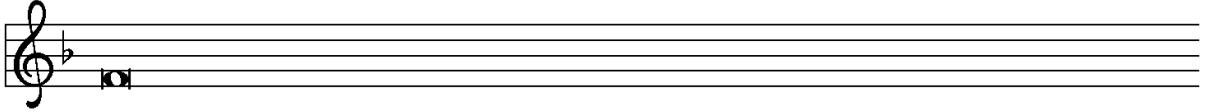


BLESSING

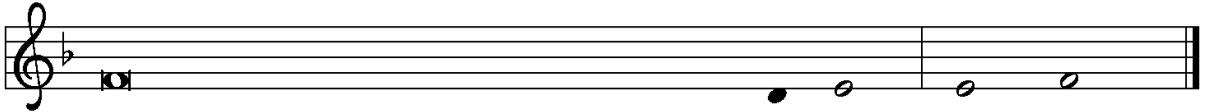


Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Almighty and merciful God, Creator, + Christ, and Holy Spirit,



bles, preserve, and keep us, this night and forev-er - more.

A - men.