

# Compline live by Zoom

## Holy Week 2020

Prelude: Tantum ergo - Maurice Duruflé - sung by the choir of Trinity College, Cambridge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi-ku9BNwco>



*Down in adoration falling,  
Lo! the sacred Host we hail,  
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing  
Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying,  
Where the feeble senses fail.  
To the Everlasting Father,  
And the Son Who reigns on high  
With the Holy Ghost proceeding  
Forth from Each eternally,  
Be salvation, honour, blessing,  
Might, and endless majesty.  
Amen.*

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

**Amen**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**Who has made heaven and earth**

O God, make speed to save us:  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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**

Praise the Lord:  
**the Lord's name be praised**

PSALM - Psalm 39

*I said, I will take heed to my ways : that I offend not in my tongue.*

*2 I will keep my mouth as it were with a bridle : while the ungodly is in my sight.*

*3 I held my tongue, and spake nothing : I kept silence, yea, even from good words; but it was pain and grief to me.*

*4 My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire kindled : and at the last I spake with my tongue;*

*5 Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days : that I may be certified how long I*

have to live.

*6 Behold, thou hast made my days as it more a span long : and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity.*

*7 For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain : he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.*

*8 And now, Lord, what is my hope : truly my hope is even in thee.*

*9 Deliver me from all mine offences : and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.*

*10 I became dumb, and opened not my mouth : for it was thy doing.*

*11 Take thy plague away from me : I am even consumed by the means of thy heavy hand.*

*12 When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment : every man therefore is but vanity.*

*13 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling : hold not thy peace at my tears.*

*14 For I am a stranger with thee : and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.*

*15 O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength : before I go hence, and be no more seen.*

READING - John 13: 13-15

*"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

REFLECTION (Nathan)

See text below

THE OFFICE HYMN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SiamHnQYmw>

*Before the ending of the day,*  
Creator of the world, we pray,  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
from nightly fears and fantasies;  
tread under foot our ghostly foe,  
that no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
through Jesus Christ thine only Son,  
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
doth live and reign eternally.  
Amen

*Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit*  
**For you have redeemed me, O Lord God of Truth**

*Keep me as the apple of your eye*  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings**

*Preserve us, O Lord while waking,*  
**and guard us while sleeping, that while we are awake we may watch with Christ, and when we sleep we may rest in peace.**

HYMN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IB9QgJKMVk>  
Faithful vigil ended, watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant his discharge in peace

All the spirit promised, all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliv'rance sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants our discharge in peace.

*Preserve us, O Lord while waking,*  
**and guard us while sleeping, that while we are awake we may watch with Christ, and when we sleep we may rest in peace.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Let us pray*  
*Lord have mercy*  
**Christ have mercy**  
*Lord have mercy*

*Bless the Lord, the God of our Fathers*  
**sing his praise and exalt him for ever**

*Bless the Lord, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*  
**sing his praise and exalt him for ever**

*Bless him in the heights of heaven*  
**sing his praise and exalt him for ever**

*The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing*  
**Amen**

CONFESSION

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father,*  
**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**  
**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

ABSOLUTION

*Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all  
our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all  
goodness, and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord*

**Amen**

*Will you not give us life again, O Lord*  
**That your people may rejoice in you**  
*Shew us your mercy, O Lord*  
**And grant us your salvation**  
*Keep us tonight, Lord from all sin*  
**have mercy on us, Lord have mercy**

*O Lord, hear our prayer*  
**And let our cry come to you**

The Collect for the Day, and other prayers,  
ending with **ONE** of the following:

*Monday / Thursday*

**Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O  
Lord, and in your great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*Tuesday*

**Be with us, merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this  
night, so that we, who are wearied by the  
changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Wednesday*

**Look down, Lord, from your heavenly throne;  
lighten the darkness of the night with your  
celestial brightness; and from the children of  
light banish the deeds of darkness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**HYMN - An Upper Room did our Lord prepare**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=JdlGyPaLMp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdlGyPaLMp8)

An Upper Room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end:

and his disciples still gather there  
to celebrate their Risen Friend.

A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:  
to share his bread, his loving cup.  
Whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his Cross shall lift us up.

And after Supper he washed their feet.  
for service, too, is sacrament.  
In him our joy shall be made complete -  
sent out to serve, as he has sent.

No end there is! We depart in peace.  
He loves beyond the uttermost:  
in every room in our Father's house  
he will be there, as Lord and Host.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR  
<https://youtu.be/88DnO61aW7k>

*In peace we will lie down and sleep*  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety**  
*Abide with us, Lord Jesus*  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now  
past**  
*As the night watch looks for the morning*  
**so do we look for you, O Christ**

*The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be  
gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.*  
**Amen**

**POSTLUDE**

**Chorale Prelude on *The Passion Chorale* - J S  
Bach - the organ of St Peter's Church, Formby**  
<https://youtu.be/PVZ2vn7IKCc>

## REFLECTION

Jesus says a lot of annoying things like this. They are annoying because they prevent me from just looking out for myself. In the same vein, Jesus says to Peter *'If any of you want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross to follow me'*.

It is a virtue that goes beyond just being 'kind' – that great standard Christian behaviour. Sam Wells sums up the cross as: *'not just the moment when we see the truth of who we are. It's also the moment that we see the truth of who God is'*.

I wonder whether Jesus had been reflecting on his experience of having his feet washed with hair and perfume. Although it was a common occurrence in first century Palestine, the act has clearly made a mark on Jesus. He takes it and sets us a model of development, addition, and innovation in response to the needs we see – or don't see directly- around us.

R.S. Thomas wrote: *'We have over-furnished our faith. Our churches are as limousines in the procession towards heaven. But the verities remain: a de-nuclearised cross, uncontaminated by our coinage; the chalice's ichor; and one crumb of bread on the tongue for the bird-like intelligence to be made tame by'*.

Those were the things that I missed when we were told that church buildings had to close. I can also understand – a tiny bit better - how Christians that can't meet publicly feel a lot of the time.

Partly, that is why it is always so powerful when we strip the altar on Maundy Thursday. We take it right back to basics. A table, bread and wine, different people drawn together around a teacher and Lord.

Still, our opportunity is to notice what we missed, and see what we value, when it is denied to us for the moment. We are seeing this in many other areas of our lives too – faith and church should be no different. We deliberately take away all the trappings to focus on what is important.

We literally take it away to see what will come out of the other side. As a result we can examine our perspective on what we are doing. This is a gift as Sam Wells describes: *'Jesus is forging a path that we can follow. The closer we stay to him, the nearer we come to life'*.

Elaine Gisbourne wrote the following prayer which seems appropriate for the world today: *'When there are no answers, only confusion, and the shadows threaten to overwhelm, may we remember the words of the meal we share together: 'Do this in remembrance of me''*.

## Action

There is no pressure, but we have a wonderful chance to show intimacy. Foot washing can be a nerve-racking thing in a church service, but now we are in the privacy of our homes, the act of washing each other's hands with those closest to us – something out of the ordinary – may be more comfortable. You could always indulge yourself with a bath (feet, hands or all of you!) as well!