

Vigil Service for either the 3rd or the 4th August, 2014

A Vigil Service is a reflective night service of readings and prayers in which we bring our sorrows, confusion and longings as we pray for the dawning of God's mercy, protection and peace. On this occasion we recall those who waited, some in fear, others flushed with excitement of an impending battle, the news of the declaration of war.

The visual symbolism of light and darkness is a vital aspect of this night service. Four candles representing the four corners of the world are placed in a square visible to the gathered congregation. Two are extinguished at the end of each reading, and a fifth, larger candle is brought in for the reading of the Gospel. At the end of the Gospel reading the fifth candle is placed in the centre of the four extinguished candles to remind us that in the light of Christ we are able to face the enclosing darkness.

THE VIGIL

<i>Opening</i>	stand
<i>Hymn</i>	
<i>Reading</i>	sit
<i>Psalmody</i>	
<i>Reading</i>	
<i>Psalmody</i>	
<i>The Old Testament Canticle</i>	stand
<i>The Gospel (Mark 13.3–8 or Luke 19.41–44)</i>	
<i>Responsory</i>	
<i>The New Testament Canticle</i>	
<i>Prayers</i>	kneel or sit
<i>Blessing</i>	

Opening

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

Welcome

Hymn

'The kingdom come! on bended knee' (NEH 500), *or some other suitable hymn, or song*

A Biblical Reading

Two candles are extinguished after the first reading.

Psalm 36

- 1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart;
 there is no fear of God before their eyes.
- 2 They flatter themselves in their own eyes
 that there abominable sin will not be found out.
- 3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of deceit;
 they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.
- 4 They think out mischief upon their beds
 and have set themselves in no good way;
 nor do they abhor that which is evil.
- 5 Let not the foot of pride come against me,
 nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.
- 6 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
 and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 7 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,
 your justice like the strong deep;
 you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.
- 8 How precious is your loving mercy, O God!
 All mortal flesh shall take refuge
 under the shadow of your wings.

Prayer

O God, the source of life,
banish our pride and enlighten us with wisdom,
that we may be led by your light,
and come to see your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

A Reading

This may be a biblical, or an appropriate non-biblical reading.

The two remaining candles are extinguished after this second reading.

Old Testament Canticle

- All** The boots of tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 1 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
- 2 they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest;
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 3 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders;
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 4 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood:
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 5 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us:
and the government will be on his shoulders;
- 6 And he will be named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God:
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- 7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace:
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
- 8 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness:
from this time onwards and for evermore.
- Glory be 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.**
- The boots of tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

A fifth lighted candle is brought in for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Reading

Either Mark 13. 3–8, or Luke 19.41–44 or Matthew 2.16–18

Responsory

The nations are in tumult, and the peoples devise a vain plot
Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness

A sound of loud lamentation is heard: Rachel is weeping for her children
Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness

Not one stone will be left standing on another
Give ear to our cry, and answer us in your righteousness

(Jeremiah 31.15; Psalms 2.1, and 143 1; Luke 19.44)

New Testament Cantic

All **The One who sits upon the throne
will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

- 1 Behold a great multitude:
which no one could number.
- 2 From every nation,
from all tribes and peoples and tongues:
standing before the throne and the Lamb.
- 3 And the One who sits upon the throne:
will shelter them with his presence.
- 4 They shall never again feel hunger or thirst:
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
- 5 For the Lamb at the heart of the throne:
will be their Shepherd.
- 6 He will guide them to springs of living water:
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7

**To the One who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The One who sits upon the throne
will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

The Prayers

Concluding with the following two prayers

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

All In your tender compassion, O God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

All To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Blessing

May God the Holy Trinity
guard and defend you on every side,
strengthen you to face times of difficulty,
and keep you rooted in faith and hope;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you and all whom you love,
this night and always.

Amen.