

GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE CHAPEL

# COMPLINE



28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Compline (in Latin, *Completorium*) is the last service of the day, completing the daily work of prayer. In the sixteenth century Thomas Cranmer melded the evening and night offices, Vespers and Compline, into Evensong. The music for Compline is simple; it can be sung in darkness. At its heart is the Gospel canticle *Nunc Dimittis*.

The Choir sings most of the service on behalf of all those gathered together.

DR CAIUS'S PRAYER  
for daily use in the College

*Deus pacis et dilectionis maneat semper nobiscum. Amen.*  
The God of peace and love remain with us always. Amen.

*Please know that you are all welcome.*

*This sung Night Prayer will unfold without announcement.*

*The service begins in silence as the Choir, Precentor, and Acting Dean enter and take their seats. You may wish to stay seated or kneel at any point to aid your reflection and prayer.*

## **PREPARATION**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen**

Beloved, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8,9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**We confess to God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
through our own grievous fault.  
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

**Almighty God, have mercy upon us,  
forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to life everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the almighty and merciful Lord  
grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Remain seated: the Acting Dean and Choir sing the PRECES*

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's name be praised.

## HYMN

*Te lucis ante terminum,  
Rerum creator, poscimus,  
Ut solita clementia,  
Sis praesul ad custodiam.*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray,  
That with thy constant favour thou  
Wouldst be our Guard and Keeper now.

*Te corda nostra somnient,  
Te per soporem sentiant,  
Tuamque semper gloriam  
Vicina luce concinant.*

Allow our hearts to dream of thee,  
Thee through the sleep of night to see,  
Then, with the light of dawn, may we  
Thy glory praise unceasingly.

*Vitam salubrem tribue,  
Nostrum calorem refice,  
Taetram noctis caliginem  
Tua colustret claritas.*

O grant us health of life once more;  
The warmth of day to us restore,  
And pierce the gloomy dark of night  
With splendid beams of thy pure light.

*Praesta, Pater, omnipotens,  
Per Iesum Christum Dominum,  
Qui tecum in perpetuum  
Regnat cum Sancto Spiritu.  
Amen.*

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.

**PSALM 31.1-6** Choir (text on p. 173 of the Shorter Prayer Book)

*Antiphon*

Have mercy upon me, O God, and hearken unto my prayer.

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust:

let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me:

make haste to deliver me.

And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence:

that thou mayest save me.

For thou art my strong rock, and my castle:

be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy name's sake.

Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me:

for thou art my strength.

Into thy hands I commend my spirit:

for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:*

*and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:*

*world without end, Amen.*

**LITTLE CHAPTER** *Isaiah 58.6, 7*

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## MOTET

*Nolo mortem peccatoris;*

*Haec sunt verba Salvatoris.*

Father I am thine only Son,

sent down from heaven mankind to save.

Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will, I have.

Father, my will now all is this:

*Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on every side;

Ev'n from my birth to death most tart,

no kind of pain I have denied,

but suffered all, and all for this:

*Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

*Thomas Morley (1557-1602)*

## RESPONSORY

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

*Stand (if you wish)*

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Luke 2.29-32*

*Antiphon*

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

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :

thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :

before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :*

*and to the Holy Ghost;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :*

*world without end. Amen.*

Third Service *Philip Moore (b. 1943)*

*Kneel or sit to pray*

**PRAYERS**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All*

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:  
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:  
let us praise and magnify him forever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:  
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his  
blessing. Amen.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;  
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;  
O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, hear our prayer;  
And let our cry come unto thee.



*After a time of silence, the Acting Dean prays:*

## COLLECTS

King of kings and Lord of lords,  
making the true light to shine:  
lighten our darkness now and evermore  
that with our lips and in our lives we may praise you;  
for you are our God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, O Lord,  
for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.

As the watchmen look for the morning,  
so do we look for thee, O Christ.

The Lord be with you  
And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy  
Ghost, bless and preserve us. Amen.

*Said*

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace. **Amen.**

*Compline ends with one of the traditional antiphons in honour of Blessed Mary the Virgin, according to the season.*

*In 1348 Edmund Gonville dedicated the newly founded Gonville Hall to the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin.*

### **ANTIPHON**

<i>Ave, Regina caelorum,</i>	Hail, Queen of heaven,
<i>Ave, Domina angelorum:</i>	Hail, Lady of the angels:
<i>Salve, radix, salve, porta,</i>	We greet you, source and portal:
<i>Ex qua mundo lux est orta:</i>	From you light was born for the world.
<i>Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,</i>	Rejoice, Virgin glorious,
<i>Super omnes speciosa:</i>	Loveliest above all:
<i>Vale, o valde decora,</i>	In truth of beauty you prevail,
<i>Et pro nobis Christum exora.</i>	And pray to Christ for us.

*The Acting Dean leaves the Chapel. Everyone else is welcome to stay and enjoy the silence as long as they wish.*

*When they are ready, the congregation and Choir depart in silence.*