

Sibyls London Evening Meeting: June 2020
Order of Evening Prayer

Preparation

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

All Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;
Let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
(Psalm 143.10)

Praise

**Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
And such a Life, as killeth death.**

**Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a Feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.**

**Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in Love.**

George Herbert (1633)

Psalmody

Psalm 139 English Standard Version (ESV)
Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

1 Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; ||
you discern my thoughts from afar.

- 3 You search out my path and my lying down ||
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, ||
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before, ||
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; ||
it is high; I cannot attain it.
- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? ||
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! ||
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning ||
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead me, ||
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, ||
and the light about me be night,"
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; ||
**the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.**
- 13 For you formed my inward parts; ||
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. ||
**Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.**
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret, ||
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them, ||
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! ||
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. ||
I awake, and I am still with you.
- 19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! ||
O men of blood, depart from me!
- 20 They speak against you with malicious intent; ||
your enemies take your name in vain.
- 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? ||
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- 22 I hate them with complete hatred; ||
I count them my enemies.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! ||
Try me and know my thoughts!
- 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, ||
and lead me in the way everlasting!

All **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.**

Bible Readings

Old Testament: *Care for others and ourselves*

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may

be. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.' Deuteronomy 15.7,8,10,11

New Testament: *The Power of the Gospel*

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 31-39

Gospel: *Commissioning*

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17.18-23

Reflection

Silence, study, song, or words from Scripture: This reflection is available on <http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/documents/SuM0610a-ReflectionSibylsZoomService-11jun20.pdf>

Closing with: Jesus said, I am the gate for the sheep.
All **He came that we may have life: and have it abundantly.**
John 10.7,10b (adapted)

Prayers

Prayers may include these topics:

- Peace in the World
- International and National Issues and Concerns
- Welfare Groups, Workers and Support
- Those in isolation at the present time
- Support for Sibyls and LGBTI people more generally
- Support for members and families of members
- Members who are absent or cannot be present
- All who are ill; or facing trauma; or who are in distress
- All who are bereaved
- Church witness and acceptance

End each prayer with “Lord in Your Mercy”

Response: **Hear our Prayer**

The Collect of the day or the following prayer is said

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Benedict of Nursia (c.550))

All: **Amen.**

This version of the Lord's Prayer is said by all.

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**

Parker J. Palmer

The Peace

All: The Peace of the Lord be Always with you
And also with you

The Peace is shared “Zoom hug” or equivalent. Be creative!

Conclusion

All: May God kindle in us the fire of love.
Amen.

The Grace

All: **May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for
evermore.
Amen.**

Susan Gilchrist 25 May 2020

Order of Service available on <http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/documents/SuM0529b-SibyIsEveningMeetingOrderEveningPrayer-11jun20.pdf>