ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE

Order of Service for Compline

The Gathering

Opening responses

Blessed be God
who creates out of nothing,
who shapes beauty out of chaos,
breathes life into dust,
delights in designing difference
and embodies in each human
the image of our Maker.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God
who gives each person a purpose,
calling th young for their energy
and the old for their wisdom;
refusing to discriminate
in terms of race, colour,
intellect or giftedness;
affirming forgotten worth,
identifying hidden potential,
redeeming deep regrets.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God
who forsakes heaven to live on earth,
who, In Jesus, is truly flesh of our flesh
and bone of our bone,
vulnerable to pain, rumour and conflict,
open to question,
committed to heal,
sentenced to death,
destined for resurrection,
vindicating the power and the love of God
ever holy
ever one.
All: Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be the Maker,
the Son and the Spirit
in our lives and in our worship.
Amen.

<u>A Prayer for stillness and attentiveness</u>

In the mystery of your presence,
no words are needed.
In the depth of your silence,
no sound is necessary.
In the face of your Word,
no voice need respond.
'Be still,' you say,
'and know that I am God.'

So, we will be still and listen….
to the beating of our hearts,
to the racing of our minds,
to the pondering of our souls,
knowing that your Spirit, your Holy Spirit,
is beating, moving, provoking
within us and amongst us.

Silence is kept

And we will be still and listen…
for the cry of the voiceless,
for the groaning of the weary,
for the pain of the wounded,
for the sigh of the victim,
for the laughter of children,
for the song of gladness,
knowing that your Spirit, your Holy Spirit,
enables crying, groaning, sighing,
and also brings song and laughter.

Silence is kept

We will be still,
and if we do not take off our shoes,
we will yet remember that this is Holy Ground
because you have promised to be
where your people meet in Jesus' name.
And so we will wait;

patiently or impatiently
we will wait for Jesus.

All: Amen.

Silence is kept

The Word of God

Psalm

Either
Psalm 40

I waited patiently for God
and God bent down to hear me.

**All: God lifted me from a murky pit
and set me firmly on a rock
where I can stand confidently.**

God put a new song on my lips,
a song of praise to my Maker.

**All: Many will look on in wonder
and put their trust in God.**

Countless are your wonders, O god;
in goodness you have no equal.

**All: We would proclaim all your works
were they not too many to number.**

Or
Psalm 71

In you, O God, is my security;
let me never be put to shame.

**All: By your saving power deliver me,
hear me and keep me safe.**

Be a rock of refuge for me
to which I can always come.

**All: Keep me safe from the power of the wicked,
from the grasp of the cruel and unjust.**

In you, as long as I can remember,
my hope and my trust have been placed.

**All: I have leaned on you since my birth,
since you brought me out of the womb.**

Keep close when energy fails me
and I spend my last years on earth.

**All: Let me wait in continual hope
and praise you again and again.**

Readings

We listen to one or more Bible readings

We listen as "Now At The Ending Of The Day" is sung

Prayers for Others

Remember those….

Let us now, in prayer,
remember and call out to God
for those whom the following words of Scripture
bring to mind.

Remember those
who tonight will cry,
'I wish to God it were morning',
and come morning will cry,
'I wish to God it were night'.

Remember those
whose pillows are soaked with tears
and whose eyes are tired and dim
with weeping.

Silence

Remember those
who, for whatever reason,
may want to say,
'Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your kingdom.'

Silence

Remember those
for whom the light that was in them
has turned to darkness,
and that darkness is doubly dark.

Silence

Remember those
who in looking to tomorrow,
deeply hope that
the sick will be healed,
the stranger welcomed,
the prisoner released,
the poor hear good news.

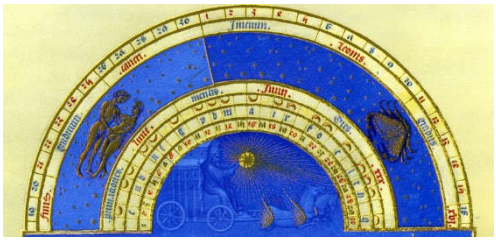
Silence

And let us, in confidence,
share with God our own hopes and
longings.

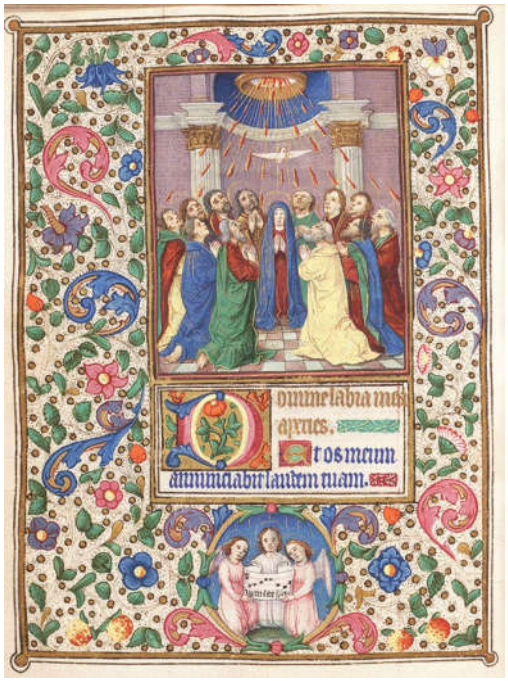
Silence.

Glory to God our Maker,
to God's own Son who is Christ our
Lord,
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts
both now and for ever.
All: Amen

A Time For Everything….



There is a time for every purpose under heaven
and a prayer for every person on earth:
….a prayer for those in physical pain
or mental anguish…..
…..a time for the emotionally bruised
and broken…
….a time for those who fear tomorrow….
….a time for those
who have been blessed today…
….a time for letting go or for picking up….
….a time for what we only share with God…..



The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Departing in peace

God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the prayerful and positive ones,
the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb,

All: Give us your benediction,
your good word for our souls
that we may rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.
Am en