LIVING your call

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Living together: Being the church

Being the Church: Images, models, and more



Whose church?







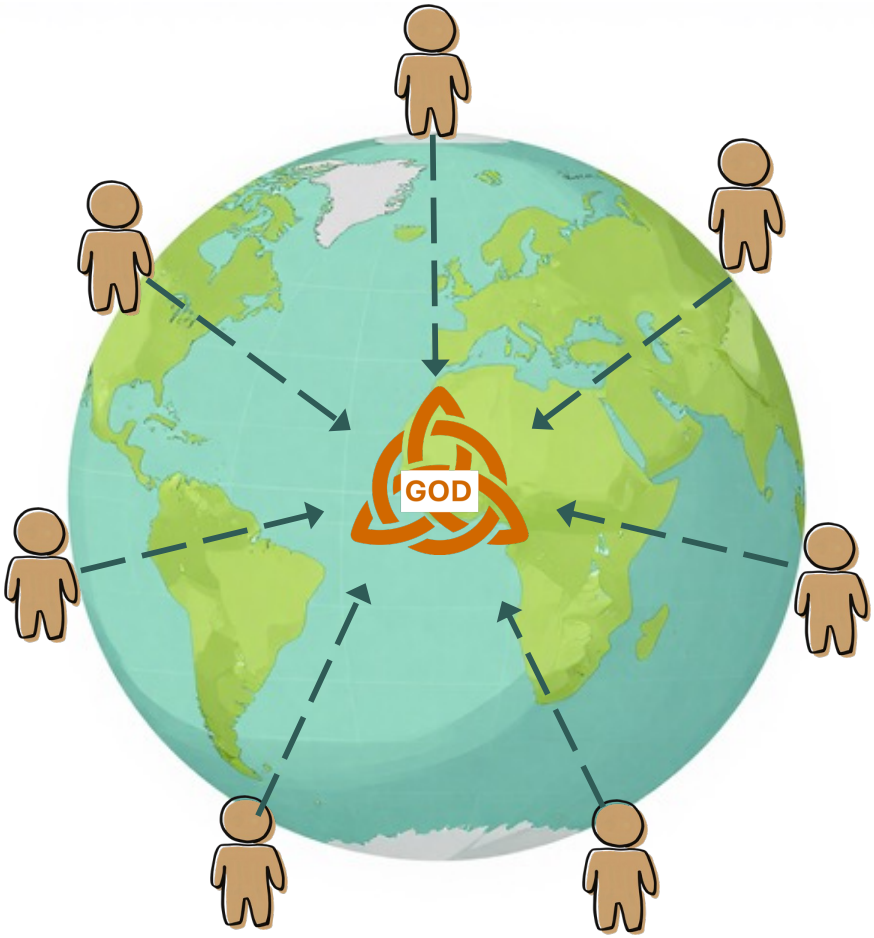
What is (the) church?

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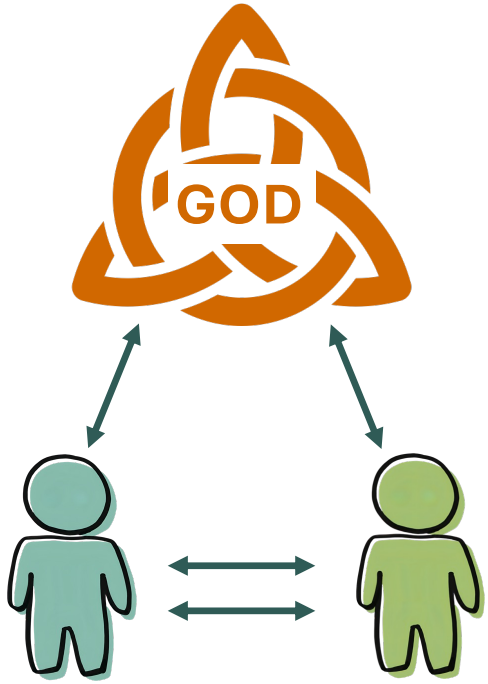
What is (the) church?





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What is (the) church?



As we draw closer to God,
we also draw closer to each other

What is (the) Church for?



What is (the) Church for?

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"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people**, in order that** you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

1 Peter 2.9

What is the Church for?

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"The church is the church only when it exists for others."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison* (enlarged edition; London: SCM, 1979), 382.

"The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."

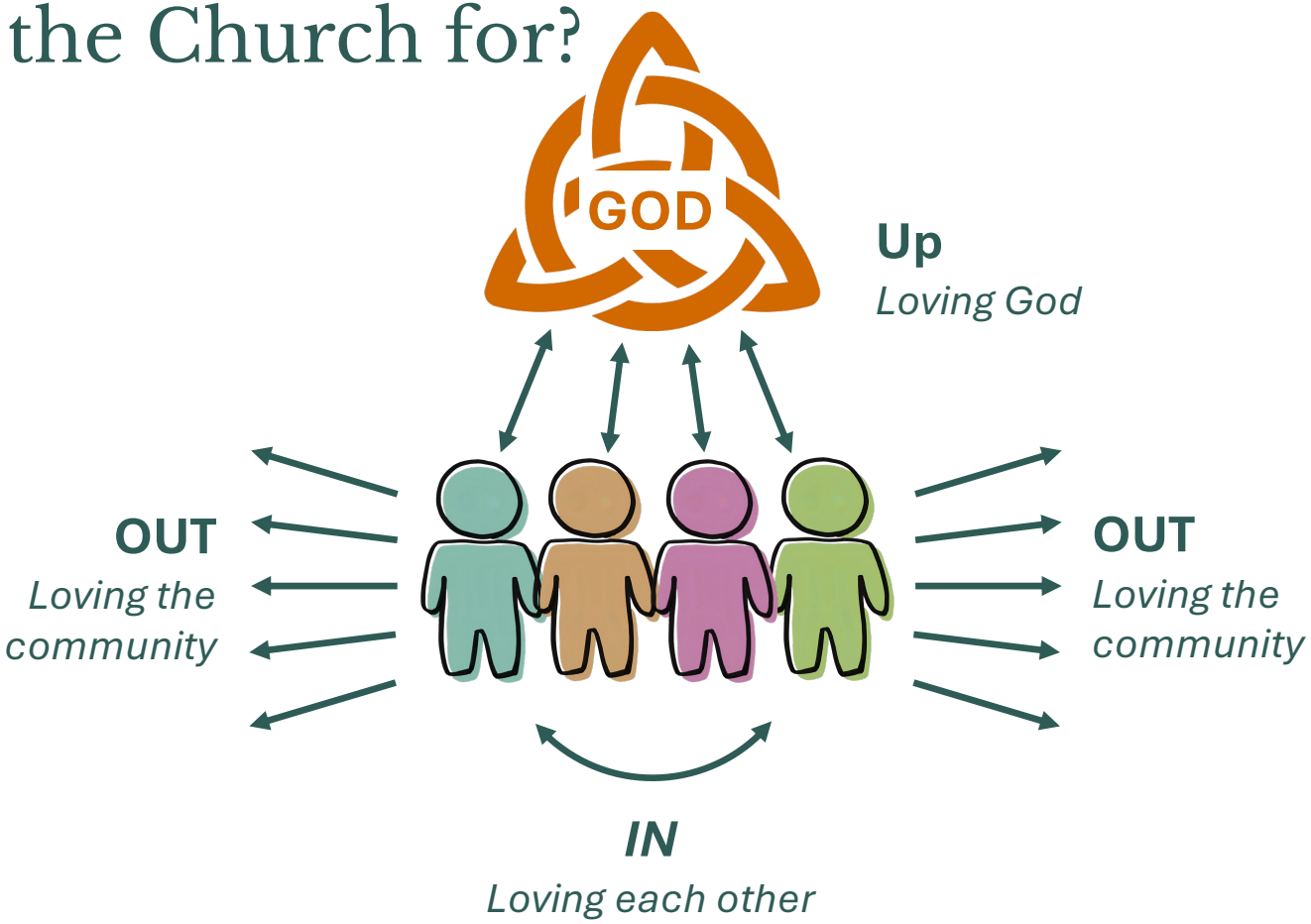
Attributed to Archbishop William Temple



What is the Church for?

- Worship
- Discipleship
- Mission

What is the Church for?



5 Marks of Mission

Tell	• Proclaim the Kingdom's good news
Teach	• Baptise and nurture new believers
Tend	• Respond to human need by loving service
Transform	• Change society's unjust structures
Treasure	• Safeguard the integrity of creation



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What guides us as we decide how to be Church?

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Connections Recap

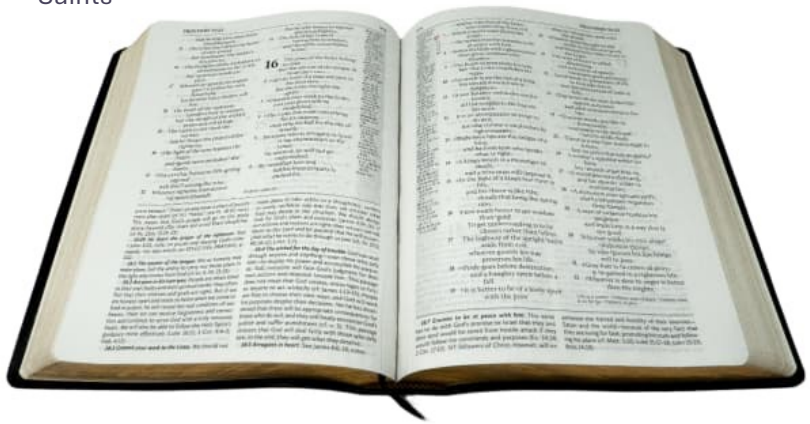


Tradition

Scripture

Reason

Scripture



Communion of Saints

Body

Family

Flock

Bride

Building

Army

Vine

Citizens of heaven

Salt and Light

Scripture – Images of Church

People of God

the people of God
Israel
a chosen race
a holy nation
×□□W !"#$%&'()*+,
the patriarchs
circumcision
Abraham's sons
the exodus
house of David
remnant
×□□W !"#$%&'(
flock
lambs who rule
the Holy City
the holy temple
priesthood
sacrifice
aroma
festivals

New Creation

first fruits
the new humanity
the last Adam
the Son of Man
×□□Wthe Kingdom of God
fighters against Satan
Sabbath Rest
the coming age
God's glory
light
the name
life
the tree of life
×□□Wcommunion in the Holy Spirit
the bond of love

Fellowship

the sanctified
the faithful
the justified
disciples
followers
road
coming and going
witnessing community
confessors
slaves
friends
servants
"with.."
×□□Wedification
household of God
sons of God
brotherhood

Body of Christ

the body of life
members of Christ
the body and the blood
the diversities of ministries
spiritual body
head of cosmic spirits
head of the church
the body of this head
×□□W !"#$%&'()*+,-./012345
the growth of the body
the fullness of God

the salt of the earth
a letter from Christ
fish and fish net
the boat
the ark
unleavened bread
branches of the vine
one loaf
×□□Wvineyard
the table of the Lord
the fig tree
the altar
the olive tree
the cup of the Lord
God's planting
wine

Other

the wedding feast
the bride of Christ
the elect lady

Gentiles
hosts and guests
the poor
God's building
ambassadors
building on the rock
the Dispersion
pillar and buttress
×□□Wexiles
×□□Wvirgins
citizens
the Messiah's mother
the choice of clothing
wearers of white robes

Scripture – Images of Church

Corporal
the body of life
members of Christ
the diversities of ministries
spiritual body
head of the church
the body of this head
×□□W !"#$%&'()*+,-./012345

the body and the blood
×□□the table of the Lord
one loaf
unleavened bread
the cup of the Lord
wine

Journey
followers
×□□Wcoming and going
road
the exodus

Family / Household
children of God
brothers and sisters
children of Abraham
house of David
the Messiah's mother
the wedding feast
the bride of Christ
virgins

household of God
hosts and guests
servants
slaves

Civic and military
ambassadors
citizens
a letter from Christ
army
×□□Wfighters against Satan
the Dispersion
exiles

Relational
disciples
friends
"with.."
communion in the Holy Spirit
the bond of love
witnessing community

Theological
the fullness of God
God's glory
light
the name
the sanctified
the faithful
the justified

Architectural
×□□God's building
building on the rock
pillar and buttress
the Holy City
the holy temple
the altar

Old Testament
the ark
Sabbath Rest
circumcision
the people of God
Israel
a chosen race
a holy nation
×□□W !"#$%&'()*+,
the patriarchs
priesthood
sacrifice
aroma
festivals

Agricultural
×□□Wthe tree of life
first fruits
God's planting
branches of the vine
vineyard
the fig tree
the olive tree
flock
lambs who rule
sheepfold
fish and fish net
the boat
the salt of the earth

Eschatological
×□□W !"#$%&'(
remnant
the new humanity
the coming age
the last Adam
the Kingdom of God
wearers of white robes
head of cosmic spirits

How do we use Biblical images?

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How do we use Biblical images?

No one image or model is complete or sufficient

One size does not fit all



Conversation



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Tradition

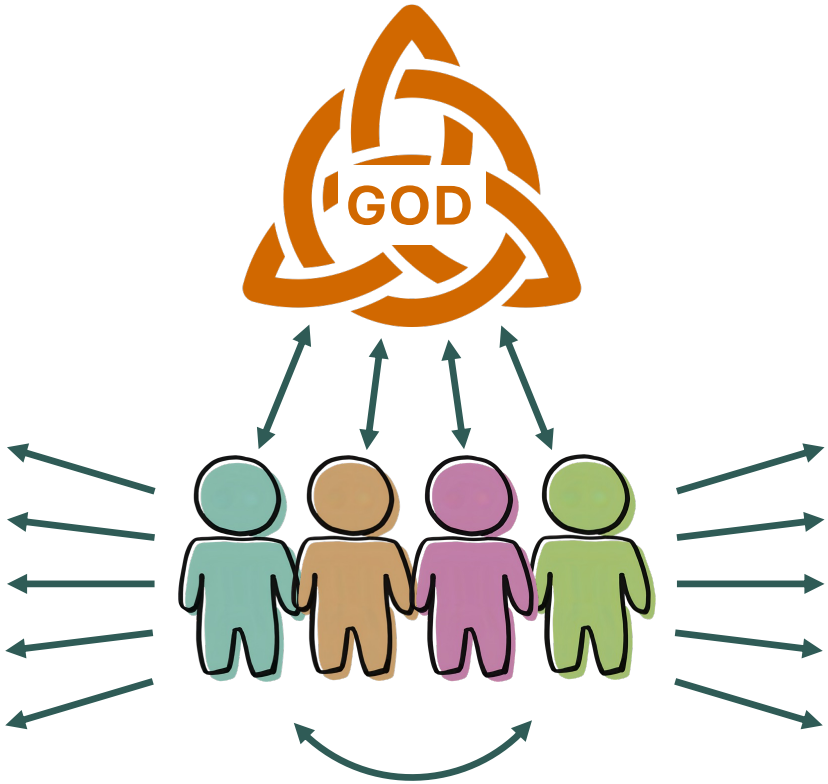
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Tradition - Creed



Tradition



Tradition



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Church in 3D

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Tradition: The 39 Articles

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"The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same…"

Article XIX: Of the Church



Foundations



Models have limitations

They are affected by many factors:

Culture

Personality

Leadership Style

Ideas



Holding things together





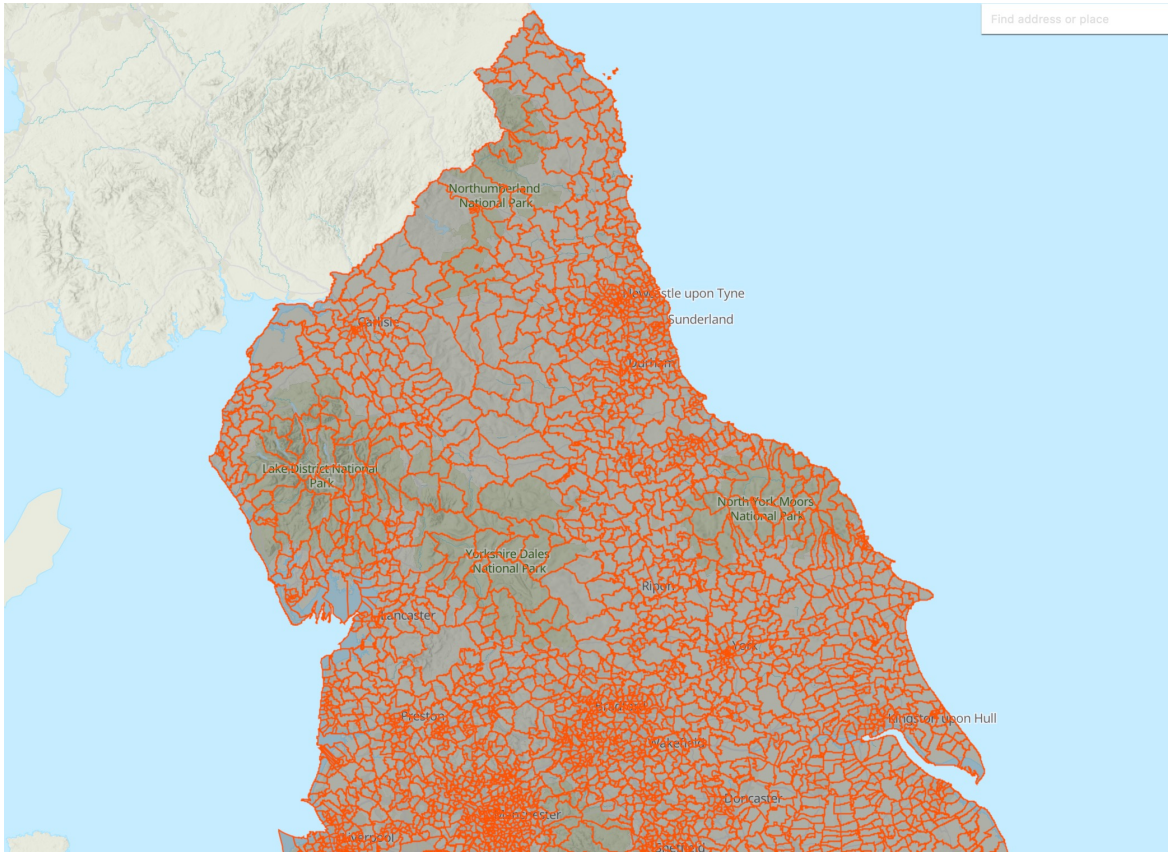
Holding things together

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Incarnation	~	Redemption
Word	~	Sacrament
Evangelism	~	Social Action & Justice
Corporate & Institutional	~	Individual
Communal & Parish	~	Associational & Gathered
Local	~	Universal
Present	~	Eternal



The Parish System



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Boundaries

- Who’s in and who’s out?
- How do we decide?



Answers through time

Early Church	Empire	Medieval	Reformation	Modern
1	2	3	4	5
ἐκκλησία (ekklesia) Called out/ gathered	Christendom	Visible Institution	Visible vs invisible	Voluntary Association









Holding things together

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Truth ~ Love

Purity ~ Unity

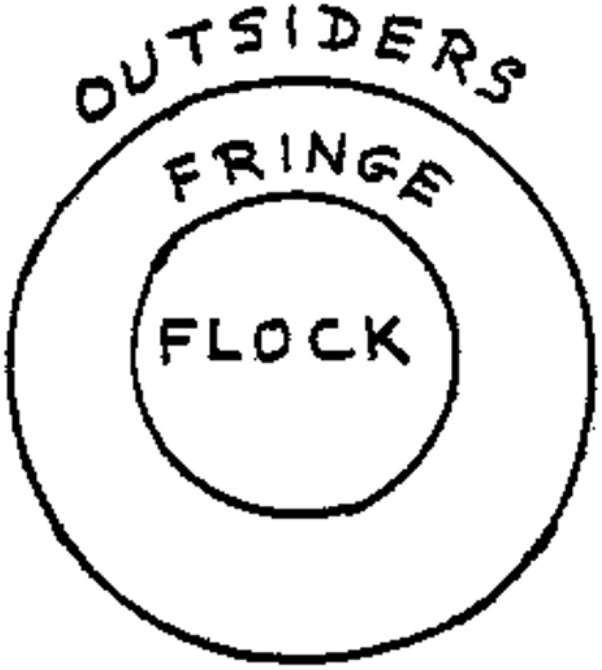
Distinctiveness ~ Openness



Who Belongs?

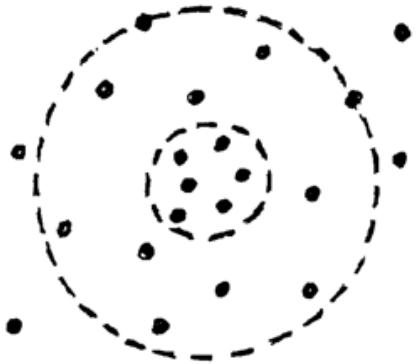
Circles of belonging:

- The Flock
- The Fringe
- Outsiders

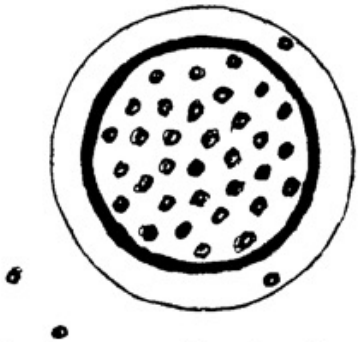


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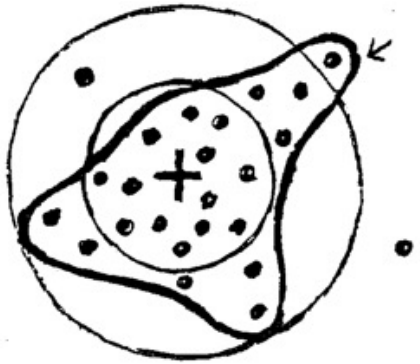
Who Belongs?



A fuzzy church



A bounded church



A centred church

What difference does it make?

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Conversation

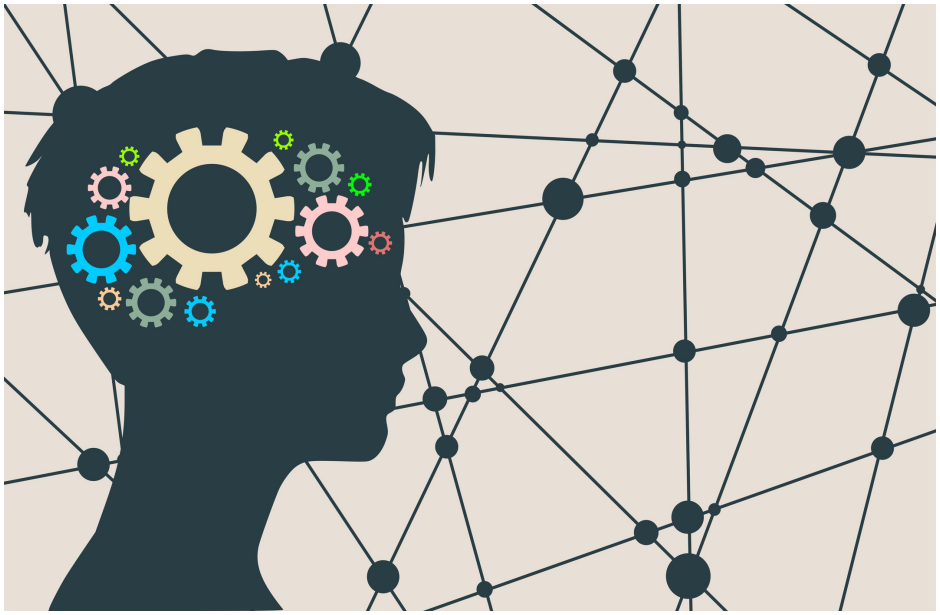


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For next time:



Preparation

The basics

Going deeper

Worship: Night Prayer

Preparation

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

All **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All **who made heaven and earth.**

Praise

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

Worship: Night Prayer

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

Ephrem the Syrian (373)

Worship: Night Prayer

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Psalm 16

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'

**2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble in heart.**

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

**4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune.**



Worship: Night Prayer

5 My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

**6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.**

7 I have set the Lord always before me;
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

**8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure.**

9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death,
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

Worship: Night Prayer

10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

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.**

Reading

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8,9

Worship: Night Prayer

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Response

All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All **I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**



us said, I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me will never die.

Worship: Night Prayer

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Gospel Canticle

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

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

Worship: Night Prayer

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.

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

Worship: Night Prayer

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick,
give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

All **Amen.**

Worship: Night Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Worship: Night Prayer

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The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All **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.

All **Amen.**

