

Commissioned by Al Cowger for Good Company, Cleveland, Ohio, Karen Weaver, Conductor,
in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Al Cowger and Tony Wesley

Night Prayer

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Night Prayer from
A New Zealand Prayer Book
(*He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*)

David Conte

Andante, always calm and clearly inflected throughout

$\text{♩} = 76$

Soprano *p* Lord, it is night. *mp* The night is for

Alto *p* Lord, it is night. *mp* The night is for

Tenor *p* Lord, it is night. *mp* The night is for

Bass *p* Lord, it is night. *mp* The night, the night is for

Andante, always calm and clearly inflected throughout

$\text{♩} = 76$

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

Words: **Night Prayer** from A New Zealand Prayer Book (*He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*)
is used by permission of Reverend Michael Hughes, General Secretary of the New Zealand Anglican Church.

rit.

A tempo ♩ = 76

7

pp *p* *mp*

si - lence. Let us be still in the pres-ence of God.

pp *p* *mp*

si - lence. Let us be still in the pres-ence of God.

pp *p* *mp*

si - lence. Let us be still in the pres-ence of God.

pp *p* *mp*

si - lence. Let us be still in the pres-ence of God.

rit.

A tempo ♩ = 76

Just a bit faster ♩ = 80

14

p *mp* *p*

It is night af-ter a long day. What has been

p *mp* *p*

It is night af-ter a long day. What has been

p *mp* *p*

It is night af-ter a long day. What has been

p *mp* *p*

It is night af-ter a long day. What has been

Just a bit faster ♩ = 80

20

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

done has been done; — what has not been done — has not been done;

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

done — has been done; what has not been done — has not been done;

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

done — has been done; what has not been done — has not been done;

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

done has been done; what has not been done — has not been done; —

26

Slower, relaxed ♩ = 69

p *pp*

let it be. — The night is — dark. —

p *pp*

let it be, — let it be. — The night is — dark. —

p *pp*

let it be, — let it be. — The night is — dark. —

p *pp*

let it be, — let it be. — The night is — dark. —

Slower, relaxed ♩ = 69

Faster, previous tempo ♩ = 80

32 *mp* *mf*

Let our fears of the dark - ness of the world, and of our own

mp *mf*

Let our fears of the dark-ness of the world, and of our own

mp *mf*

Let our fears of the dark - ness of the world, and of our own

mp *mf*

Let our fears of the dark-ness of the world, and of our own lives, our

Faster, previous tempo ♩ = 80

rit.

Slower, solemnly ♩ = 72

37 *mp* *p*

lives rest in you. The night is qui - et.

mp *p*

lives rest in you. The night is qui - et.

mp *p*

lives rest in you. The night is qui - et.

mp *p*

own lives rest in you. The night is qui - et.

rit.

Slower, solemnly ♩ = 72

Faster, previous tempo ♩ = 80

Slower, solemnly ♩ = 72

44

Let the quiet-ness of your peace en-fold us, and those all dear to us,

Let the quiet-ness of your peace en-fold us, and those all dear to us,

Let the quiet-ness of your peace en-fold us, and those all dear to

Let the quiet-ness of your peace en-fold us, and those all dear to

Faster, previous tempo ♩ = 80

Slower, solemnly ♩ = 72

rit.

Just a bit slower

rit.

Tempo I ♩ = 76

50

and all who have no peace. The night her-alds the

and all who have no peace. The night her-alds the

us, and all who have no peace. The night her-alds the

us, and all who have no peace. The night, the

rit.

Just a bit slower

rit.

Tempo I ♩ = 76

57

mf *rhythmic, alert*

dawn, the dawn. Let us look ex - pect - ant - ly to new joys, and

mf *rhythmic, alert*

dawn, the dawn. Let us look ex - pect - ant - ly to new joys, and

mf *rhythmic, alert*

dawn, the dawn. Let us look, let us look ex - pect - ant - ly to new joys,

mf *rhythmic, alert*

dawn, the dawn. Let us look, let us look ex - pect - ant - ly to new joys,

*allarg.***Maestoso** ♩ = 60

62

f

to new pos - si - bil - i - ties.

f

to new pos - si - bil - i - ties.

f

new pos - si - bil - i - ties.

f

to new pos - si - bil - i - ties.

allarg. **Maestoso** ♩ = 60

Slow, a bit more motion, reverent

♩ = 66

Still slower

♩ = 56

molto rit.

66 *p* *mp* *p* *div. pp*

In — your name we — pray. A — — — men.

p *mp* *p* *pp*

In — your name we — pray. A — — — men.

p *div. mp* *unis. p* *pp*

In — your name we — pray. A — — — men.

p *div. mp* *p* *div. pp*

In — your name we pray. A — — — men.

Slow, a bit more motion, reverent

♩ = 66

Still slower

♩ = 56

molto rit.

p *mp* *p* *pp*

In — your name we pray. A — — — men.

December 7–21, 2015 | San Francisco | 4:30

Night Prayer

Lord,
it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done,
what has not been done has not been done:
let it be

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
and those all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
to new joys,
and to new possibilities.

In your name we pray.
Amen.

NOTES

The text of *Night Prayer* was written by the Rev. John Williamson in 1987 for inclusion in *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. The tone of the prayer is both traditional and contemporary. Its natural and intended use is as part of the Compline service, the final service of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours. This setting is in a reverent, chorale style, rising to a climax with the words, "Let us look... to a new day, to new joys, and to new possibilities." *Night Prayer* was commissioned by Good Company, a chamber choir based in Cleveland, Ohio, and was premiered on May 15, 2016.

David Conte (b. 1955)

For biographical information visit: www.davidconte.net

Night Prayer from *A New Zealand Prayer Book (He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa)* is used by permission of Reverend Michael Hughes, General Secretary of the New Zealand Anglican Church.