

PREFACE.

THE custom of gathering in church to watch the last hours of the passing year, seems to commend itself just now to increasing numbers of persons, of all varieties of religious thought and feeling.

The undersigned has induced the author of this "Midnight Service" to offer it to the public, believing it will serve an important use in guiding judgment and cultivating pure taste in this direction. He believes that the line of thought and devotion which appear in this work will be acceptable to very many Each rector can easily change the portions of scripture that have been selected for others, according to his own taste.

The musical idea begins with the solemn memory of the passage of time and consciousness of imperfection, and rises by a just progress to the climax—the great hope which is incorporated by revelation into all human life. It begins with the darkness which still hangs over so much of earth, and lifts the quiet throng of worshipers steadily towards the moments of silent prayer, before the sound of the midnight clock tells that another year has fled—and lands them on the level of the angel-song of the *Gloria in Excelsis*, sung once in mortal hearing by those who dwell

"On that happy shore, Where years and death are known no more."

The manner of performance is by responses from choir to chancel, and will be easily understood on examination. These responses should be given promptly. After the choir have thoroughly learned the music, a single rehearsal with the minister will remove all hesitation. The service should begin precisely at 11.30 P.M. If rendered as intended, the "Silent Prayer" will be reached two or three minutes before midnight. Ample rehearsal must preclude the chance of mistake between choir and chancel. The words should be printed separately and distributed through the pews, that the congregation may see at a glance what is intended, and also be able to refresh their memories afterwards.

This service is commended to those who feel a disposition to devote the last hours of the year to pious meditation in their churches. Such persons will find it a profound satisfaction. The hushed assembly, the solemn hour, the words of sacred scripture, the prayers to Him "who from everlasting to everlasting is God," ever the same in love and blessing—and the quiet, tender procession and rise of the music, stealing away the melancholy of a saddened memory, and pointing the self-accusations of penitence to the great source of human hope, will be found to be a sacred pleasure and produce a deep impression.

Declining the dedication which the author's partiality suggested, the writer feels sufficient satisfaction in recording his enjoyment of this music in his own church, and his conviction that others will thank him that he has insisted on its publication.

CHARLES H. HALL.

HOLY TRINITY RECTORY, BROOKLYN, N. Y., September 13, 1880.



*) After Organ Introduction, which should be mostly in D minor.

































Here follow the: Creed, Confession, Absolution, and The Lord's Prayer, immediately after which The "Song of the Night." 2446 (Responsire.)

Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept. (Isaiah xxx, 29.) For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. (Isaiah ix, 2.)

Where is God my maker who giveth songs in the night? (Job xxxv. 10.)







Shall his wondrous works be known in the dark, and his righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten? (Ps. lxxxviii 12.)











Who knoweth what is good for man in this life, for he cometh in with vanity and departeth in darkness? Who can tell a man what shall be after him? (Eccl. iv. 4, 12.)











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Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep. all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2. Peter iii, 4.)



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CHANCEL.

If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (Ps. exxxix, 1.7.)







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CHANCEL.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness. that that day should overtake you as a thief in the night. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night nor of darkness. (1 Thess. v. 4, 5.)









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(Isaiah xxi, 2.)



CHANCEL. When shall I arise and the night be gone? (Job. vii, 4.)



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Collects. _ For Christmas. the Fourth Sunday after Trinity, and from the Visitation office. Silent Devotions. Midnight. Gloria in Excelsis. * Collects. _ For the Circumcision, the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, All Saints.

Benediction.

*)"Festival" in D. Epis. Ch. Music. 24 Series. G. Schirmer. N.Y. 2446

Organ Introduction.

Anthem. (Ps. XC. Verses 1 to 11.)

Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction: against thou sayest. Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday; seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as asleep; and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and groweth up: but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withcred.

For we consume away in thy displeasure, and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou has set our misdeeds before thee; and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are three-score years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to four-score years, yet is their strength then but labor and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

GLORIA PATRI.

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Creed, Confession, Absolution, and The Lord's Prayer.

The Song of the Night. (Responsive.)

CHANCEL.

Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept. (Isaiah xxx, 29.) For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. (Isaiah ix, 2.)

Where is God my maker who give h songs in the night? (Job xxxv. 10.)

CHOIR.

He hath made darkness his pavilion round about him, and thick clouds of the skies. He bowed the heavens also and came down; and darkness was under his feet. (2d Sam. xxii, 10, 12.) He sitteth hetween the Cherubim. be the carth never so unquiet.(Ps. xcix, 1.)

CHANCEL.

Shall his wondrous works be known in the dark, and his righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten? (Ps. lxxxviii.12.)

CHOIR.

He hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter ii, 9.) through the tender mercies of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke i, 78, 59.)

CHANCEL.

Who knoweth what is good for man in this life, for he cometh in with vanity and departeth in darkness? Who can tell a man what shall be after him? (Eccl. iv, 4, 12.)

CHOIR.

There shall be no night there: they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God givent them light. (Rev. xxii, 5.)

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Rev. vii, 16.17.)

CHANCEL.

Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation? (2 Peter iii, 4.)

CHOIR.

Of that day and of that hour knoweth no man. No, not the angels in heaven, but the Father only. Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as you think not the Son of Man cometh! (Matt. xxiv, 36,42,44.)

CHANCEL.

If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me. Whither shall I go from thy spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy presence. (Ps. cxxxix, 1, 7.)

CHOIR.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and light are both alike to thee. (Ps. cxxix, 12.)

This, then, is the message we have heard of him and declare unto you! that God is Light, and that in him is no darkness at all. (1 John i, 5.)

CHANCEL.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief in the night. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night nor of darkness. (1 Thess. v, 4,5.)

CHOIR.

Let us who are of the day be sober; putting on the breast-plate of faith and love. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us; that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (1 Thess. v, 8, 9, 10.)

CHANCEL.

Watchman! what of the night? Watchman! what of the night?

(Isaiah xxi, 2.)

CHOIR.

The morning cometh and also the night. If ye will enquire, enquire ye! return! come! (Isa. xxi, 12.)

CHANCEL.

When shall I arise and the night be gone? (Job. vii, 4.)

CHOIR.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us, therefore, put off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. (Rom. xiii, 12.)

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Collects. For Christmas, the Fourth Sunday after Trinity, and from the Visitation office.

Silent Devotions. Midnight.

Gloria in Excelsis.

Collects. _ For the Circumcision, the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, All Saints.

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Benediction.