

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, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. *Amen.*



—Night Prayer, *A New Zealand Prayer Book*
He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, p. 184

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

I have long been drawn to the night prayers. I resonate with the words of these offerings. Their poetry soothes my soul. I also resonate with the stillness that comes in darkness, when I am allowed the time to hope, to commune with my spirit in a quiet place.

Our days are so filled with chaos that we often miss opportunities to nurture our spirits. It is in the darkness, when it is quiet, when we are faced with our fears and our desires, that we turn to the One who brings us comfort.

Those in Episcopal Relief & Development's global community have fears and desires that are not dissimilar from our own: to keep their families safe, to protect them from sickness and hardship, to provide them with opportunities to grow.

Tonight, think of our friends around the world and rest well in the knowledge that their savings group is providing opportunities for their children to attend school, that the mosquito net is providing a peaceful night's sleep. And give thanks for these things, these partnerships that create a place for hope, a hope that comes in Christ with the dawn of the new day.

—Chad Brinkman