

**THE MORNING WATCHES  
AND NIGHT WATCHES.  
NEW YORK, 1874**

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The Morning Watches and Night Watches. New York, 1874 by J. R. Macduff

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**J. R. MACDUFF**

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THE  
MORNING WATCHES  
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NIGHT WATCHES.

BY THE

REV. J. R. <sup>John</sup> MACDUFF, D. D., 1818-1895

AUTHOR OF "THE MIND AND WORDS OF JESUS," "FAITHFUL  
PROMISES," "FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL," "BOW IN  
THE CLOUD," "FAMILY PRAYERS," ETC.

NEW YORK:  
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No. 580 BROADWAY.  
1874.

## The Morning Watches.

THIS little volume is designed to form, by the Divine blessing, an humble auxiliary in promoting, what is pronounced in the best of all manuals of devotion to be "a good thing,"—the shewing forth of God's "loving-kindness in the morning," and His "faithfulness every night." (Ps. xcii. 2.)

It may not be out of place to remark, regarding the verse which forms the key-note to each petition—"O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee"—that the word "direct," in the original Hebrew, may literally be rendered, "set in order." It refers to the setting in order of the wood for the burnt-sacrifices in the temple of old. While the heart of the believer, according to this beautiful allusion, is represented as a spiritual altar, on which, morning after morning, he offers the oblation of prayer, this motto-verse may also serve as a magnet to keep the eye fixed, in each successive petition, on the great Antitypical Sacrifice, through whom alone it is that "the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts" are "acceptable" in the sight of God.

Though more strictly designed for private devotion, and therefore expressed in the first person, it is hoped, by the substitution of the plural pronoun, that the following pages may not be inappropriate for the family altar.

December 26, 1851.

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1st MONITOR.

"O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer  
unto Thee."

"For Thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for  
it is great."—Ps. xlv. 11.

**For Pardon  
of Sin.** O GOD, I bless Thee that  
Thou hast permitted me  
to lie down in sleep, and  
to awake this morning in safety. Thou  
hast dispersed the darkness of another  
night: may no shadow of sin obscure  
the sunshine of thy favour and love.  
May the returning light of day be to me  
the type and emblem of that better radi-  
ance with which thou visitest the souls  
of Thy people, when they are enabled,  
in Jesus, to behold a pardoning God  
seated on a throne of reconciliation and  
grace.

I come to Thee, acknowledging my  
transgressions in all their heinousness.  
I have nothing to plead in extenuation.  
Warnings have been abused, providen-  
ces slighted, grace resisted, Thy Spirit

grieved. It is of the Lord's mercies I am not consumed—that Thou hast not long ere now consigned me, with all this load of unpardoned guilt, to that place where pardon is unknown.

But I do rejoice to know that "there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared"—that I can bring my great sin to a great Saviour. May I be enabled to feel that this all-glorious name of a reconciled God in Christ is "a strong tower," into which I may "run, and be safe." Give me grace, in self-renouncing lowliness, to disown every other ground of confidence or hope of mercy, and to cast myself, a broken-hearted, humbled penitent, at the feet of Him on whom was laid the burden of all my transgressions. May mine henceforth be the blessedness of those whose "iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." May life's joys be sweetened, and life's sorrows sanctified, and life's terminating



hour gladdened, with the assurance, "I am at peace with my God." May Thy favour brighten every scene, and the sweet sense of thy reconciling love be interfused with all my occupations. If sorrow should cloud or darken, may I be brought to feel that there can be no true sorrow or disquietude to the soul which has found its rest in the finished work of Jesus, and which has attained that blessed peace here which is the prelude of glory hereafter.

Give me grace to walk more closely with Thee in the time to come. Being forgiven much, may I love Thee all the more. May my life be one habitual effort of self and sin crucifixion, seeking to consecrate my soul's best energies to Him who is willing to "blot out as a thick cloud" all my transgressions. Overrule the discipline of Thy providence for promoting within me this death of sin, and this life of righteousness. Amid earth's manifold disquiet-

tudes, its crosses and its losses, enable me with joy to look forward to that blessed hour when there shall be no more sin, and therefore no more sorrow — when every tear shall be wiped from every eye, and when I shall be permitted to know all that is comprehended in the holy beatitude, how “blessed” indeed are “the pure in heart,” who are to “see God.”

Direct, control, suggest, this day, all my designs and thoughts and actions, that every power of my body, and every faculty of my mind may unite in devotedness to Thy sole service and glory. And all I ask is for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

“GATHER ME TO HEAR THY LOVING-JUDGMENTS IN THE MORNING, FOR BY THEM DO I TRUST.”

2d MORNING.

"O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer  
unto Thee."

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right  
spirit within me."—Ps. li. 10.

**For Renewal  
of Heart.** ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast  
mercifully preserved me  
during the unconscious  
hours of slumber, I desire to dedicate  
my waking moments and thoughts to  
Thee. Do Thou pre-occupy my mind  
with hallowed and heavenly things.  
May I be enabled throughout this day,  
by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, to ex-  
clude all that is vain and frivolous and  
sinful, and to have my affections cen-  
tered on Thee, as my best portion and  
chiefest joy. As Thy Spirit of old did  
brood over the face of the waters, may  
that same blessed Spirit descend in all  
the plenitude of His heavenly graces,  
that the gloom of a deeper moral chaos  
may be dispersed, and that mine may  
be the beauty and happiness and glad-