Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
who speaks the evening into being,
skillfully opens the gates,
thoughtfully alters the time and changes the seasons,
and arranges the stars in their heavenly courses according to plan.
You are Creator of day and night,
rolling light away from darkness and darkness from light,
transforming day into night and distinguishing one from the other.

Adonai Tz’vaot is Your Name.

Ever-living God, may You reign continually over us into eternity.
Blessed are You, Adonai, who brings on evening.

Baruch atah, Adonai, hamaariv aravim.

Adonai Tz’vaot: this is one of many names that help elucidate God’s attributes. God designs, creates and arranges the universe with order and purpose.

The darkness of the first day differed from the darkness that preceded creation. The root of maariv can also mean “mix,” suggesting God mixed light into the primordial darkness. The tiniest spark of light can transform darkness.