

OPENING SONG

Leader: The Angels of God guard us through the night.

People: and quieten the powers of darkness.

Leader: The Spirit of God be our guide

People: To lead us to peace and to glory.

Leader: It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Silence

Leader: My brothers and sisters, our help is in the name of the eternal God,

People: who is making the heavens and the earth.

Leader: Dear God,
thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.
O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way,
my bright evening star.
We repent the wrongs we have done:

Silence

Leader: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Leader: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

Leader: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Leader: Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Invocation

Leader: Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,

People: that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Leader: Let us worship the God of love.

People: Amen, Amen.

Psalm 103 (from *The Message Bible* and slightly adapted)

Leader: O my soul, bless God.

From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name!

O my soul, bless God,

don't forget a single blessing!

God forgives your sins—every one.

God heals your diseases—every one.

and redeems you from hell—saves your life!

God crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown.

And wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal.

God renews your youth—you're always young in his presence.

God makes everything come out right;

and puts victims back on their feet.

God is sheer mercy and grace;

not easily angered, rich in love.

God doesn't endlessly nag and scold,

nor hold grudges forever.

God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve,

nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.

As high as heaven is over the earth,

so strong is God's love to those who fear God.

And as far as sunrise is from sunset,

God has separated us from our sins.

As parents feel for their children,

God feels for those who stand in awe of the Holy One.

God knows us inside and out,

keeps in mind that we're made of mud.

Women and men don't live very long;

like wildflowers they spring up and blossom,

But a storm snuffs them out just as quickly,

leaving nothing to show they were here.

God's love, though, is forever and always,

eternally present to all who love God,

Making everything right for them and their children

As they walk in God's ways

And live by God's law.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

Reader: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and those who are afraid are not perfected in love. We love because God first loved us. If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother or sister, that person is a liar; for those who do not love their brothers and sisters whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. *1 John 4:18-20*

Hymn "Now the Day is Over"

Leader:

1 Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

2 O God, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tend'rest blessing
May our eyelids close.

3 Through the long night watches,
May Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
Watching round my bed

Leader: Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit,

People: For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Leader: Keep me, O God, as the apple of Your eye;

People: hide me under the shadow of your wings.

*The following antiphon is said together, before the **Song of Simeon***

**People: Preserve us, O God, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in your peace.**

Song of Simeon

**People: Praise be to God, I have lived to see this day.
God's promise is fulfilled, and my duty done.
At last you have given me peace,
for I have seen with my own eyes
the salvation you have prepared for all nations -
a light to the world in its darkness,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever.
Amen.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord have mercy.

The Prayer that Jesus Taught

**People: Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader invites the people to offer their own prayers in the chat box or silently at home

The leader and people pray responsively.

Leader: I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

People: for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

Leader: Let us bless the Earth-maker, the Pain-bearer, the Life-giver,

People: let us praise and exalt God above all for ever.

Leader: May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,

People: glorified and exalted above all for ever.

*The leader selects and starts one of the following prayers, **the people joining on the second** The service concluding with the leader saying the *Sentence of the Day*, the closing song (*We Remember*), and **people responding in the concluding sentence of the Final Versicle.***

1

Leader: Be present, Spirit of God,

**People: within us, your dwelling place and home,
that this house may be one where
all darkness is penetrated by your light,
all troubles calmed by your peace,
all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering,
and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen**

Or

2

Leader: God our Creator, our centre, our friend,

**People: we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead, and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end.
Amen.**

Or

3

Leader: Lord, it is night.

People: 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.**

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Sentence of the Day

Leader: The blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

Closing Song: We Remember

We remember how you loved us to your death
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;
and we believe that we will see you when you come
to your glory, Lord.

We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Leader: The divine Spirit dwells in us.

People: Thanks be to God.

To all attending: Please unmute your sound and say “farewell” or “goodnight” or “peace” to those who have worshipped with you this evening. Then go in peace.