

NIGHT PRAYER

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 46 (from *Centering Prayer for Everyone*, by Lindsay Boyer)

Leader: God whispers to the heart, "Be still; I am with you."

People: God whispers to the heart, "Be still; I am with you."

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength,
a present help in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth be moved and shaken.

People: God whispers to the heart, "Be still; I am with you."

Leader: We will not fear though the mountains be toppled into the
sea,

though the depths of the waters rage and foam.

People: God whispers to the heart, "Be still; I am with you."

Leader: "Be still, and know that I am God."

God is with us,
God has spoken,
and the earth shall melt away.

People: God whispers to the heart, "Be still; I am with you."

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Reader: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what
is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo
one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be

ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:9-13

Hymn "Jolted by Address" by Walter Bruggeman

Leader: We are surrounded by a din of demanding voices:

Selling,
Recruiting,
Seducing,
Coercing.

**People: We screen them out in order to maintain our sanity,
To secure our rest.**

Leader: And then in the night, you address us,
you call us by name,
you entrust to us risky words,
you empower us with authority.

But your voice is on first hearing not distinctive.

We confuse your voice with that of an old friend
or a deep hope,
or a powerful fear
or an ancient bias.

**People: We hear, but we do not listen---
jolted, bewildered, resistant.**

Leader: But your voice sneaks up on us:
You address us,
You call us by name,
You entrust us with risky words,
You empower us with authority.
Sometimes....occasionally....boldly...we answer:
"Speak, I am listening."
Then we say, "Here am I."

People: **And listening, we are made new and sent dangerously
Then we say, "Here am I."**

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

The people to offer their own prayers aloud, in the chat on Zoom, or silently

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

*The leader selects and starts one of the following prayers, **the people join in after the first line.***

*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 center, 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
in your glory, Lord.
We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Leader: The divine Spirit dwells in us.

People: Thanks be to God.

To those joining online, please unmute your microphone and say “farewell” or “goodnight” or “peace” to those gathered this evening. Then go in peace.