

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 sisters and brothers, 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 19: Rendered by *Nan Merrill*

Leader: The Heavens declare the glory
of the creator;

The firmament proclaims the
handiwork of love.

Day to day speech pours forth
and night to night knowledge
is revealed.

There is no speech,
nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
Yet does their music go out
through all of the earth,
and their words to the end
of the world.

**People: In them a tent for the sun is set,
which is like a bride and groom
on their wedding night
as they sing love's song and
celebrate the dance of life.
Its rising is in eternity,
and its circuit to infinity;
There is nothing hid from the sunlight.
The law of Love is perfect,
reviving the soul;
The testimony of Love is sure,
making wise the simple;
The precepts of Love are right,
rejoicing the heart;
The authority of Love is pure;
enlightening the eyes;
The spirit of Love is wondrous,
enduring forever;
The rites of Love are true,
awakening compassion.**

Leader: More to be desired are they
than gold,
even much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and
drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them are the loving
alerted;
in keeping them there is
great reward.

**People: But who can discern their own
weaknesses?
Cleanse me, O Love, from
all my hidden faults.
Keep me from boldly acting in
error;
Let my fears not have dominion
over me!
Then shall I become a beneficial
presence,
freely and fully surrendered
to your Love.**

Leader: Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
find favor in your Heart
O my Beloved, my strength and
my joy!

A READING FROM PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

**Reader: The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,**

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”**

**Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For
since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through
wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to
save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire
wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's
foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is
stronger than human strength.**

DUST: A POEM PRAYER BY *STEVE GARNAAS-HOLMES*

Leader: Doubting, or woeful, or just bored, perhaps,
she sits in the overheated chapel,
end of the pew, by the window,
staring at the ochre splash of sunlight
against the communion railing,
and beyond it the dark corner
obscured in shadow behind the ray of light.

**People: The voices drone on
but what she hears is the echoes
of all those prayers she has said
and psalms she has recited,
maybe to no avail, she thinks,
those hopeful words she now doubts
but still hears echoing like shadows
behind the light of all her thoughts.**

Leader: A dust mote drifts out of the black into the light,
and she stares at it: like her, just drifting,
without ground, without purpose,
without flock or herd or home.
She sort of loves it for that

**People: and then a too-warm ray of sun,
an ocean wave of light washes over her
to behold that like it
she is held, in light, radiant,
and seen,
such
loved
dust.**

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.

ANTIPHON

**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 to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,
as in the beginning, so now, and forever.
Amen.

Leader: God, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: God, have mercy.

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

People: Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Mother and Father 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: Spirit of truth:

Guide us into all the truth;

Consume the lies that shroud the world in hate;

Pray in us with sighs too deep for words;

And let the victim's voice ring out with hope for a new world;

Through Jesus, the Christ, who goes to the right hand of God.

People: Amen

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 three prayers:

PRAYER 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**

PRAYER 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.**

PRAYER 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.