



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer

January 7, 2026

A special welcome to those visiting us this evening.

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

When you see an asterisk *, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.

Please join your voice with the congregation in reading the responses in **bold print**.

We Gather to Worship

WORDS OF WELCOME - *Galatians 3:28*

(The water is poured.)

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism.

People: Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit. “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Leader: And you are welcome here.

TOLLING

*CALL TO WORSHIP - *Luke 24:29; Rev. 22:5*

Leader: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening

People: and the day is almost over.

Leader: In the city of God night shall be no more; they need no light of the lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

(The light is spread from the Christ candle.)

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

People: and the day is almost over.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We give thanks to you, O God, creator and ruler of the universe. You made the lights of the heavens; the sun in the day to brighten and warm the earth; the moon at night, and countless stars! You gave us these lights as signs for seasons, days, months, and years. Then in the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ to be the light of the world, the morning star that never fades. Let your light illumine our lives and enlighten our path, until we may rest in perpetual light; through Christ our Lord and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

*HYMN 836

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(The incense is lit.)

Leader: Let my prayer rise before you as incense, O Lord,

People: the lifting of my prayer as an evening sacrifice.

Leader: Holy God, let the incense of our prayer ascend before you, and let your loving-kindness descend upon us, that with devoted hearts we may sing your praises with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and glorify you forever and ever. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: O God, in you I trust.

Leader: Give us your peace, O God, that we may rejoice in your goodness to us and to all your children, and be thankful for your love revealed in Jesus Christ. Especially, we thank you for the faithful witness of Christian people, Friends with whom we have shared our lives, the courage to be bold disciples, and the laborers of those who have served us in the faith. We lift up before you this night the concerns of our congregation, prayers for... Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children as we remember the needs of others and raise the joys and concerns of our hearts and minds to you in silent prayer.

(A period of silent personal prayer.)

Leader: God our shepherd, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls, and refresh us with your peace. Keep us close to Christ and draw us closer to one another and the bonds of his wondrous love. We pray through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

836

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

By blending end of day and end of life, the imagery of this well-known Victorian hymn has made it valuable for both evening services and funerals. Although the author wrote his own music for it, the present tune has been firmly associated with this text for over 150 years.

PSALM

Psalms 100

Marina Quintanilla, soloist

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

All: Holy God, all goodness and truth comes from you. Keep us safe from evil and lead us in the paths of justice, that we may know the joy of trusting in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO (READ)

MEDITATIO (MEDITATE)

ORATIO (PRAY)

CONTEMPLATIO (CONTEMPLATION)

The focus of Lectio Divina is not a critical analysis of sacred text, but rather a more personal way of experiencing the word through contemplation and reflection.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We praise you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, by whose word the shadows of evening fall. Your wisdom opens the gates of morning; Your understanding orders the changes of time and seasons; your will controls the stars as they travel through the skies. You are the creator of both night and day, making light recede before darkness, and darkness before light. Living in eternal God, rule over us always, to the end of time. Blessed are you, whose word makes evening fall. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

People: for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

Leader: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

CANTICLE

The Lord's Prayer

CHANT

(As the droning begins, please take a moment to tune your voice to the pitch before the chant.)

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Go in God's Name

*HYMN 675

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

TALLIS' CANON

*DISMISSAL

Leader: As night falls, we do not leave alone. Christ walks with us, his light guiding our steps, his love sustaining our hearts.

People: We go, not as we came, but renewed, restored, and empowered.

Leader: What was broken, God is making whole. What was weary, God is strengthening. What was lost, God is reclaiming.

People: We step forward in faith, trusting in the One who is our healer, our hope, and our life.

Leader: Go in peace, in power, and in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

*TOLLING

675 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, through Christ, I pray, the wrong that
 3 O may my soul on thee re - pose, and with sweet
 4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all

bless - ings of the light! Keep me, O keep me
 I have done this day, that I, be - fore I
 sleep mine eye - lids close. Re - fresh my strength, for
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

safe from harm with - in the shel - ter of thine arm!
 sleep, may be at peace with neigh - bor, self, and thee.
 thine own sake, to serve thee well when I a - wake.
 heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*May be sung as a canon.

Originally consisting of twelve stanzas, this was the bedtime hymn of the boys at Winchester School in England. Now it is one of the best-known evening hymns in English (usually matched with this tune and sung in canon), and its final stanza has taken on a life of its own.