



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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## Order of Service for Evening Prayer

March 18, 2026

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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 with the congregation in reading the responses in **bold print**.

## We Gather to Worship

\*WORDS OF WELCOME - *Galatians 3:28*

*(Please rise in body or spirit as 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*

*(The light is spread from the Christ candle.)*

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. 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 your light scatter the darkness.

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

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

Leader: The Lord be with you,

**People: And also with you.**

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

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

Leader: Blessed are you, ... Glory, praise, and honor are yours, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

HYMN

*Now the Day Is Over*

EVENING

1. Now the day is o - ver, Night is draw - ing nigh,  
2. Je - sus, give the wea - ry Calm and sweet re - pose;  
3. Grant to lit - tle chil - dren Vi - sions bright of Thee;  
4. Com - fort ev - ery suf - ferer Watch - ing late in pain;  
5. Through the long night watch - es, May Thine an - gels spread  
6. When the morn - ing wak - ens, Then may I a - rise

Shad - ows of the eve - ning Steal a - cross the sky.  
With Thy ten - derest bless - ing May mine eye - lids close.  
Guard the sail - ors toss - ing On the deep blue sea.  
Those who plan some e - vil From their sin re - strain.  
Their white wings a - bove me, Watch - ing round my bed.  
Pure, and fresh, and sin - less In Thy ho - ly eyes. A - MEN.

## We Proclaim God's Word

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*(The incense is lit.)*

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

**All: 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.

**All: 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...

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 all your children and us 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.**

### PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* (hymn 801)

CRIMOND

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.*

John 8:7-11

<sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup>And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup>She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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: God of my night, as we settle into the evening, help us to see where you were in our day. Help us to hang on to the things that were good and to let go of the things that burden us. As we sleep this night, may it be a peaceful one, and may I awake refreshed in the morning. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

**All: 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.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us now pray together the prayer that our Lord and Savior taught us to pray, praying:

**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 294

*Within Our Darkest Night*

DANS NOS OBSCURITÉS

(Sung Three Times)

\*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

# 294 Within Our Darkest Night

*Dans nos obscurités*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked with a '7' (ad libitum). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The accompaniment consists of chords and dyads. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er  
*Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é -*

This Taizé chant can be used in several ways. Its inclusion in the Holy Spirit section connects the fire it celebrates with the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost. It might also be appropriate at evening services or as part of the Easter Vigil found in the *Book of Common Worship*.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1991

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1991

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

DANS NOS OBSCURITÉS

Irregular

# GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

D G C G D G Em C

dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you  
*teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al -*

Am B Em Am B Em Am B

kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.  
*lu - me le feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.*

## Visio Divina, *Divine Seeing*

Tonight, you are invited to a time of **Visio Divina**, *Divine Seeing*.

There are four basic steps to begin the practice of Visio Divina:

- **Read:** Read the scripture verse, then be still. Settle into a posture to listen to God's voice.
- **Meditate:** Ponder the words, then gaze at, look at, and observe the picture. Ask questions and ask God to help you see what God wants you to see or what God wants you to notice. What stirs within you?
- **Pray:** Pray through the text or what you notice in the image.
- **Contemplate:** We live the text. A contemplative spiritual exercise is meant to lead us to gospel action in the world and a deeper connection with God.



*Unknown Watercolor*

<sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them,  
“Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

# First Presbyterian Church

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