



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer April 1, 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 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.

All: Let your light scatter the darkness.

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: 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.

*HYMN 678

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight

LA TÉNÈBRE

(Sung Three Times)

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.

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO (READ)

MEDITATIO (MEDITATE)

Our Darkness Is Never Darkness 678

in Your Sight

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre devant toi

Capo 2: (E) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (E)
F# Bm A D G F#

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

(Am) (G) (C) (Dm6) (Esus) (E)
Bm A D Em6 F#sus F#

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.
nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re.

Like other chants from the Taizé Community in France, this paraphrase of Psalm 139:12 is meant for repeated singing. It is most effective at evening services and works well with other Taizé chants such as "Within Our Darkest Night" (no. 294) and "The Lord Is My Light" (no. 842).

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 12:3-8

³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 294

Within Our Darkest Night
(Sung Three Times)

DANS NOS OBSCURITÉS

We Respond to God's Word

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.

READING

It Was on the Wednesday

Iona Community

SOLO

Via Dolorosa

Sprague and Borop

Marina Quintanilla, mezzo-soprano

Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day, the soldiers tried to clear the narrow streets, but the crowd pressed in to see the man condemned to die on Calvary. He was bleeding from a beating, there were stripes upon His back, and He wore a crown of thorns upon His head. And He bore with every step the scorn of those who cried out for His death. Down the Via Dolorosa called the way of suffering, like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King. But He chose to walk that road out of His love for you and me. Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary. The blood that would cleanse the souls of all men made its way to the heart of Jerusalem.

We Go in God's Name

*DISMISSAL

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.

B **Em**

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

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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.

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

Visio Divina, *Divine Seeing*

Tonight, you are invited to a time of **Visio Divina**, *Divine Seeing*, using the image on the back of the bulletin. 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.



Brazen Beauty - By Lisle Gwynn Garrity

³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.