



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evensong April 9, 2025

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 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.

All: 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

OPENING CHANT

*OPENING SENTENCES

(Please rise as the light is spread from the Christ candle.)

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

All: the light no darkness can overcome.

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

All: and the day is almost over.

Leader: Eternal God, by your word, you commanded: "Let there be light!"

By your Spirit, you have revealed the light of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Shine in our hearts this night with the light of your good news

and illumine our dreams with the vision of your holy realm.

Let your light scatter the darkness.

All: and illumine your church.

*EVENING HYMN 674

I Call, O Lord, on You

ST. BRIDE

I Call, O Lord, on You

674

(Psalm 141)

1 I call, O Lord, on you: come quick - ly to my aid;
 2 Lord, let my prayer as - cend like in - cense in your sight;
 3 Set, Lord, a guard to keep close watch up - on my mouth;
 4 Have pit - y, Lord, on me; you are my strength, my shield:

hear from your throne in heaven a - bove my cry of deep dis - tress.
 see in my hands to heaven a - bove my eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
 let no re - bel - lious word es - cape your seal up - on my lips.
 you are my ref - uge in all ills; I turn in trust to you.

This paraphrase of Psalm 141 is held together by the simple dignity of its language rather than by rhyme. There is a surprising immediacy in this private prayer, offered at the end of a tiring and trying day and seeking strength to avoid saying things that are untrue or hurtful.

We Proclaim God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

(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: Holy one, as you are well pleased with Christ,
help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you.
As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and
seek his will. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved son,
our savior and Lord. We lift up before you this night the concerns of our congregation,
prayers for... Hear us now, loving God as we raise the joys and concerns
of our hearts and minds to you in silent prayer.

(A period of silent personal prayer.)

Leader: As you have made this day, O God, you also make the night. Give rest for our comfort.
Come upon us with quietness and still our souls, that we may listen for the whisper of
your Spirit and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams. Empower us to rise again
in new life to proclaim your praise and show Christ to the world, for he reigns forever
and ever.

All: Amen.

SOLO

Psalm 30

Michael Johnston

Antiphon: O Lord, I cried to you for help and you my God have healed me. (Sung in Hebrew)

I will praise you, Lord, You have rescued me and have let not my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord, I cried to you for help and you, my God, have healed me.

O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, those who love him, give thanks to his holy name.

His anger lasts a moment; his favor all through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

I said to myself in my good fortune: "Nothing will ever disturb me."

Your favor had set me on a mountain fastness, then you hid your face, and I was put to confusion.

To you, O Lord, I cried, to my God I made appeal.

What profit would my death be, my going down to the grave? Can dust give you praise or proclaim your truth?

*The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me, you have changed my mourning
into dancing, removed my sackcloth and girded me with joy.*

So my soul sings psalms to you unceasingly. O Lord my God, I will thank you forever.

We Respond to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

EVENING MEDITATION - What is this Jesus thinking of?

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: 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 99

Song of Mary

MORNING SONG

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest in his peace.

People: May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us this night and forevermore.

Leader: Bless the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised. Amen.

*TOLLING

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

Song of Mary



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3 From age to age to all who fear, such
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46–55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.