



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

---

## Order of Service for Evening Prayer

April 22, 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.

**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

\*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 our 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 release the things that burden us. As we sleep this night, may it be a peaceful one, and may we awake refreshed in the morning. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our spirits;

**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 675

*All Praise to Thee, My God This Night*

TALLIS' CANON

## We Proclaim God's Word

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*(The incense is lit.)*

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

**People: the lifting of our 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...

Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for all your children as we lift up before you this night the concerns of our congregation, prayers for...

Hear us Lord as we continue to remember the celebrations and needs of others by offering the joys and concerns of our individual 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.**

## 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.

*(sing the refrain when cued by the cantor)*

Marina Quintanilla, Cantor

**PSALM 34**  
(9–22)

Robert E. Kreutz



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord.

Copyright 1973 by Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

<sup>9</sup>O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. <sup>10</sup>The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. <sup>11</sup>Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. <sup>12</sup>Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup>Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it (R).

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. <sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit (R).

<sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all. <sup>20</sup>He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken. <sup>21</sup>Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. <sup>22</sup>The LORD redeems the life of his servants;

none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned (R).

## 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.*

Job 12:7-10; Matthew 18:20

- <sup>7</sup>“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
<sup>8</sup>ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
<sup>9</sup>Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the LORD has done this?  
<sup>10</sup>In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.  
<sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
I am there among them.”

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 769

*For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

## 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.**

## We Go in God's Name

\*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

# 769 For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

B *All* E E/G# A2 B<sub>sus</sub> B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

E E/G# A2 B<sub>sus</sub> B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

B<sub>sus</sub> B (E) *Fine* A2 E B<sub>sus</sub> B

jus-tice and joy!

## Visio Divina, *Divine Seeing*

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



<sup>10</sup>*In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.*

All Creation Sings His Praise – Jen Norton