

First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer

May 6, 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 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 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

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: Loving God...

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.

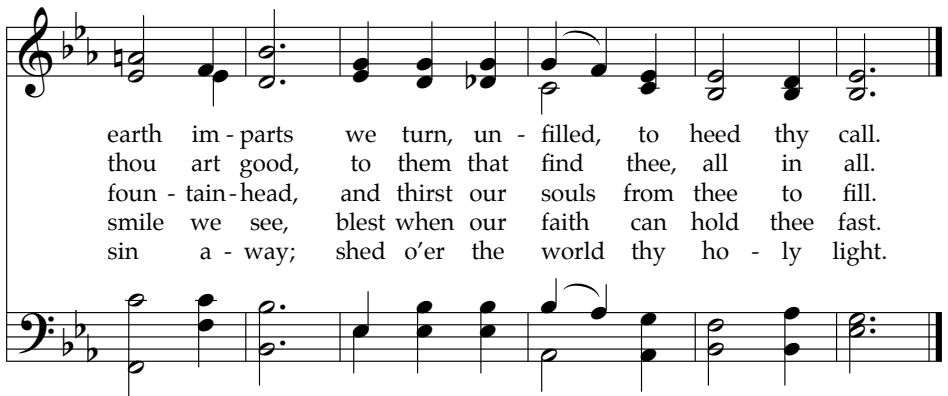
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494



1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
 3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our



life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
 those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
 feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
 change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
 mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of



earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
 thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
 foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

This 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

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

*HYMN 759

O God, We Bear the Imprint

TODOS LOS COLORES

*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.

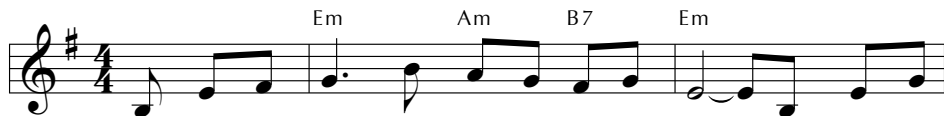
*TOLLING

Visio Divina, *Divine Seeing*

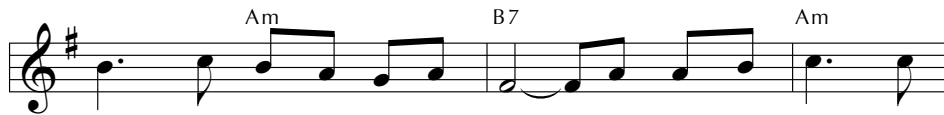
Tonight, you are invited to a time of **Visio Divina**, *Divine Seeing*, using the image on the bulletin insert. There are four basic steps to begin the practice of Visio Divina:

- **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.

O God, We Bear the Imprint 759



1 O God, we bear the im - print of your face: the col - ors
 2 Where we are torn and pulled a - part by hate be - cause our
 3 O God, we share the im - age of the One whose flesh and



of our skin are your de - sign, and what we have of
 race, our skin is not the same, while we are judged un -
 blood are ours, what - ev - er skin; in Christ's hu - man - i -



beau - ty in our race as man or wom - an, you a -
 e - qual by the state and vic - tims made be - cause we
 ty we find our own, and in his fam - i - ly our



lone de - fine, who stretched a liv - ing fab - ric on our
 own our name, hu - man - i - ty re - duced to lit - tle
 prop - er kin: Christ is the broth - er we still cru - ci -



frame and gave to each a lan - guage and a name.
 worth, dis - hon - ored is your liv - ing face on earth.
 fy, his love the lan - guage we must learn, or die.

Rather than treating racism as a societal problem, this text considers the issue from a theological point of view. When we distance ourselves from other people merely because of the color of their skin, we fail to honor their God-likeness and to see Christ's image in them.



Pentecost batik (located at St. Nikolai Kirche in Lübbenau, Germany)

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

Pentecost batik art is a distinctive style of religious art depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit using the wax-resist dyeing technique (batik). These vibrant artworks often highlight tongues of fire and the transformation of the apostles.