



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer

October 21, 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: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.

All: and the day is almost over.

Leader: The city of God has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the lamb. By its light shall the nations walk, and the rulers of earth shall bring their treasures into it.

All: We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism.

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

*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 gods, Light of lights, we give you thanks and praise for your wisdom and steadfast love. Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day. Bless and keep us this night, O Lord. Hold us in your gentle hand and lead us in your everlasting way; through Christ Jesus our Savior and in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

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: Eternal God... Gracious God, we remember in our own hearts the needs of others, that we may reach up to claim your love for them, and reach out to give your love in the name of Christ. We lift up before you this night...

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.

Sing the Refrain when cued by the Cantor

Marina Quintanilla, Cantor

PSALM 4

Helen L. Wright



In the night I can take my rest; you a-lone keep my life se-cure.

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¹When I call, you give heed, O Lord, righteous God; free me from my anguish, pity, hear my prayer. ²How long will they all remain hard of heart? How long will their lies and their vanity endure? (R) ³Remember, the Lord does wonders for the godly, the Lord will hear when I call on the holy name. (R) ⁴Do not sin but tremble, as you lie on your bed in silence and reflect. (R) ⁵Offer praise and worship to God, put your trust in the Lord. ⁶Many sigh as they pray: Lord show us your joy; When shall I see the light of your face? (R) ⁷In my heart you have poured the fullness of joy, far richer than their harvests of grain and wine. ⁸In peace I lie down and sleep comes at once, for you, Lord, alone keep my life secure. (R)

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.

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? ³⁷He said to him, ‘“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

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 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*CLOSING PRAYER

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.

*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

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



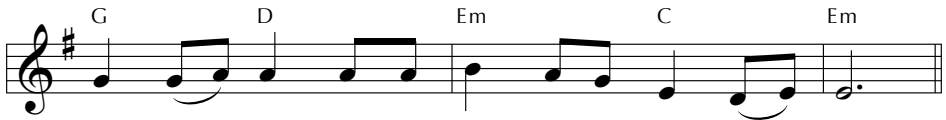
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

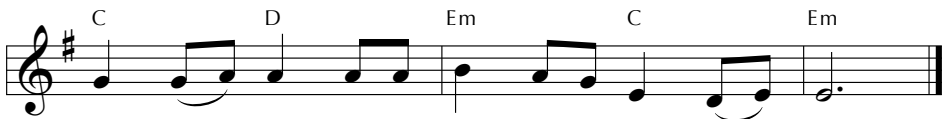
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



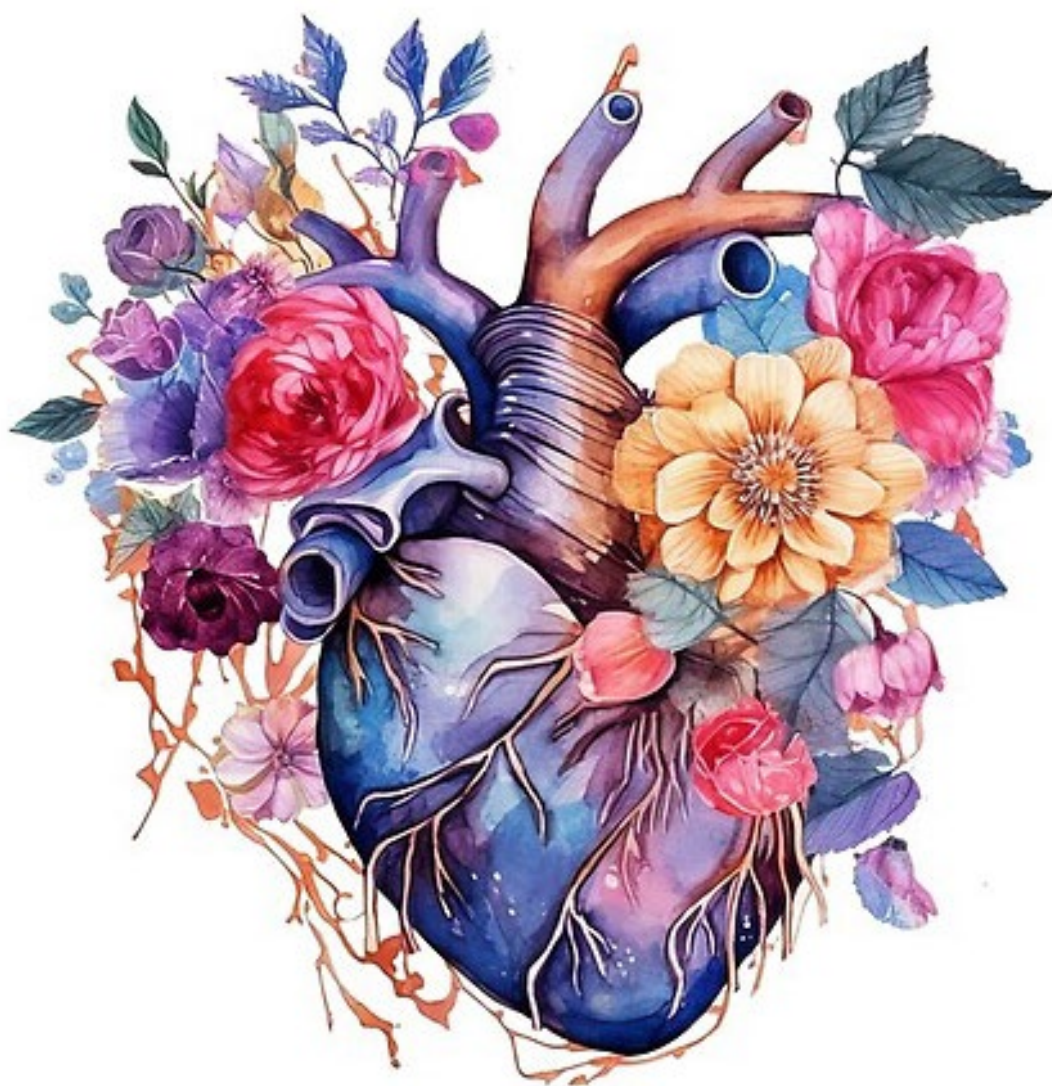
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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.

Artwork on Back



³⁷He said to him, ‘ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment.