

First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Order of Service for Evening Prayer December 17, 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 to be 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

TOLLING

*CALL TO WORSHIP - *Luke 24:29; Rev. 22:5*

Leader: Stay with us Lord, for it is evening

People: and the day is almost over.

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.

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT *(The light is spread from the Christ candle.)*

Leader: 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.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We give thanks to you, O God, creator and ruler of the universe. You made the lights of the heavens; the sun in the day to brighten and warm the earth; the moon at night, and countless stars! You gave us these lights as signs for seasons, days, months, and years. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ to be the light of the world, the morning star that never fades. Let your light illumine our lives and enlighten our path, until we may rest in perpetual light; through Christ our Lord and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(The incense is lit.)*

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

People: 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.

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... Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children 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.

MARY'S SONG OF Praise

Magnificat (Canticle of Mary)

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

84 Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,

The Latin original of this text for Advent dates from at least the 9th century, and the English version was created a millennium later as part of the 19th-century recovery of early Christian hymns. It is provided here with its traditional plainchant setting.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in *The Hymnal* 1940, alt.

MUSIC: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text Alt. © 1940 Church Pension Fund

Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

LM

(alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

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.

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word

EVENING PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We praise you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, by whose word the shadows of evening fall. Your wisdom opens the gates of morning; Your understanding orders the changes of time and seasons; your will controls the stars as they travel through the skies. You are the creator of both night and day, making light recede before darkness, and darkness before light. Living in eternal God, rule over us always, to the end of time. Blessed are you, whose word makes evening fall. 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 100

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*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.



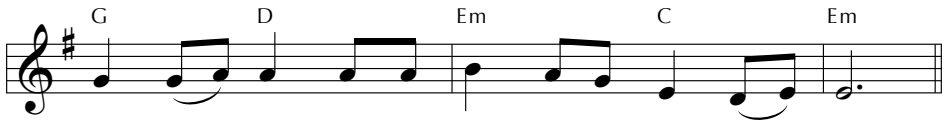
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



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

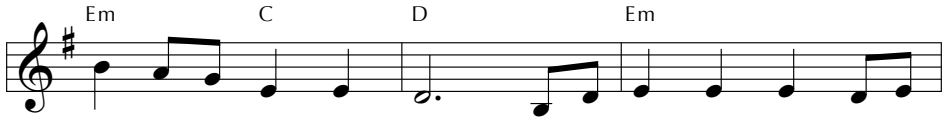


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

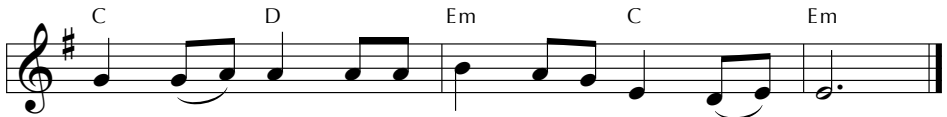
Refrain



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*.

There are four basic steps to help start 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.

Luke 1:46-48

⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ **for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.**



Dance of the Soul