



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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## Order of Service for Evensong January 8, 2025

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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 - *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.**

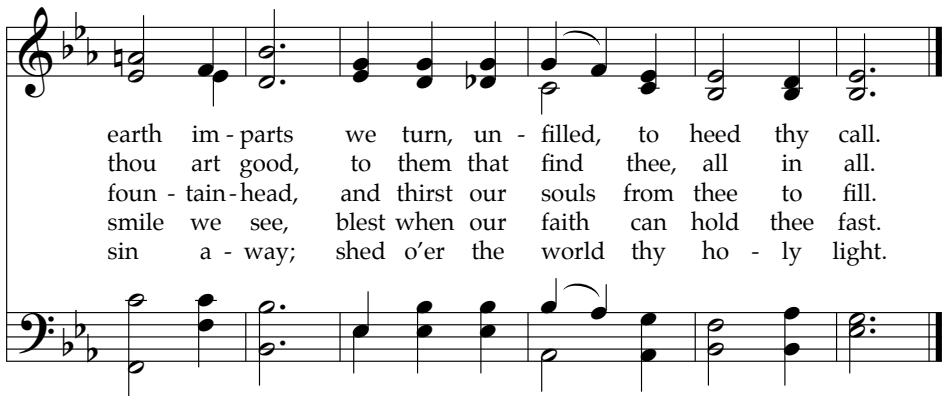
## Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494



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 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. 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

Damon B. Martin

*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.*

#### 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.*

Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# We Respond to God's Word

## EVENING PRAYER

Leader: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

**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.**

## 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

## \*DISMISSAL

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

**All: 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

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

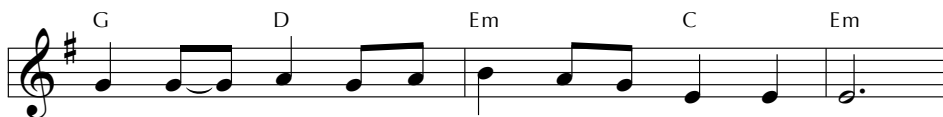
## Canticle of the Turning



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.

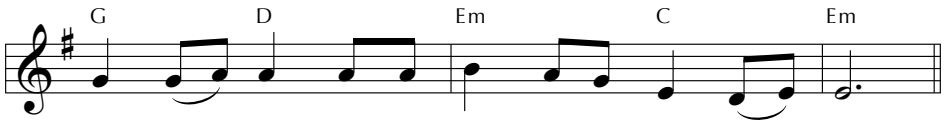


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



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.



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.

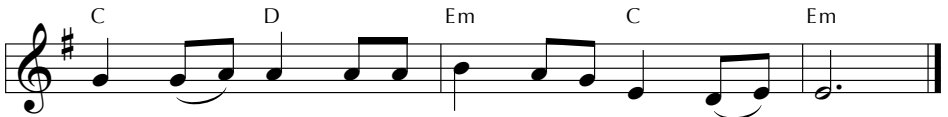
*Refrain*



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.