

# ORDER for BAPTIST MINISTRY

## *Midday Prayers* Fridays, Lent and Passiontide

### **Celebrating the presence of God**

Optional:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

*In the midst of the day,  
we pause to reflect upon  
God's goodness and mercy,  
and to commit the day afresh  
to his guidance and upholding.*

As we watch and wait  
on the way to the cross,  
we see you, Lord Christ,  
bear its weight and stumble.  
As we stand and weep,  
our hearts at a loss  
as all desert you  
and the crowd grumble;  
***we give you thanks  
for all that you've carried  
that we might be free:  
our sins, our shame,  
our death, our chains;  
that we might live  
to the glory of your name.***

*A pause to acknowledge  
any specific thanks and praise*

## **Acknowledging our humanity**

Forgive our reluctance to  
carry the cross,  
and bear its reproach;  
to seek the spectacular  
instead of the ordinary;  
to journey among crowds  
on the way that is broad,  
instead of the narrow  
and upward path.

***Grant us more courage and  
give us fresh grace  
to take up our cross  
and follow your way.  
We ask this in the name  
of the crucified one. Amen***

## **Listening for the Word**

*A freely chosen reading or*

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:20–25

## **Bringing our concerns**

We pray for those who bear heavy burdens of guilt, shame or fear ...

those whose burdens are the care of others in their frailty....

those whose burden is their own illness in mind or body....

those who carry demanding responsibilities in work or community.....

those who carry the cross for others  
as Simon of Cyrene did for you....

We pray for all that the hours to come will hold, our plans and the Spirit's interruptions ...

We pray for our world,  
church,  
members of this Order  
and circle of friends and family ...

### **Continuing to love and serve**

***We shoulder afresh the cross  
and bear it gladly,  
yoked to Jesus Christ,  
strengthened by the Spirit,  
to the glory of the Father.  
And should we stumble,  
gently lift our eyes to yours,  
set us on our feet once again,  
and direct our steps in the ways of Christ,  
Amen.***

(+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit)

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