

ORDER for BAPTIST MINISTRY

Midday Prayers Wednesdays and Christmas

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.*

Born in a cowshed
in the midst of a census,
the town crowded
and tensions running high,
You did not choose a palace
or a country estate,
smooth sheets and a feather pillow.

***But began your life as you meant
to carry on:***

***humble, no earthly riches,
a Kingdom not of this world.***

***A father's love,
a mothers' breast,
and for music,
and angel choir.***

These will suffice.

*A pause to acknowledge
any specific thanks and praise*

Acknowledging our humanity

When our life is crowded
and tensions run high.....

***When our world is hushed
and we hear heaven's music ...***

When the inns are all full
and we find ourselves outside....

***When we are held in a family's love
and recognise your presence.....***

Come and hold us within your love
and remind us that ministry
places us in the feeding trough.

Listening for the Word

*A freely chosen reading, the Gospel from the Communion readings from the
Common Lectionary, or*

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Bringing our concerns

For those in palaces,
grant them generous hearts.

For those in cowsheds
come to their aid.

For those on the hillsides
bring light in their darkness.

For those far from home
be their guide.

For all the powerless of the world
may your Kingdom come.

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

Continuing to love and serve

***In all that unfolds today
give us as
bread for the hungry,
solace for the broken-hearted,
guides for the searching,
midwives for the birthing,
voices for the wordless,
and a compass for the lost,
Amen.***

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

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