**Order for Baptist Ministry**

**Evening Prayer. Sundays and Easter**

**Becoming present to God**

Through a sign of attentiveness

like lighting a candle and/ or

 + In the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

or

Later on Sunday,

two, slowly walking,

tell their companion,

 'Jesus is dead.'

Sitting at supper,

warmed by his presence,

they know their master

 as he breaks the bread.

J. Woolford (BPW 249)

or

**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,**

**the darkness falls at your behest;**

**to you our morning hymns ascended**

**your praise shall hallow now our rest.**

John Ellerton (1826–93)

**Celebrating the presence of God**

We eavesdrop as two disciples travel the road to Emmaus, hearts full of questions, bewildered and sad;

we listen to Jesus as Scriptures are broken as food for the soul, making us glad;

news of God's promise to make all things new

through the life of the Saviour who died and now lives.

**Draw near to us, also, for the night approaches. We welcome you to stay with us, too.**

**Break open the Scriptures as you broke the bread,**

**that we might recognise you afresh, and our hearts burn within us.**

You meet us behind locked doors,

afraid of the shadows,

and breath your Spirit upon our lives

**So that we might be empowered again to go and bear witness to your risen power and endless love.**

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

**Acknowledging our humanity**

When our hearts remain entombed

**Unwrap us from the shroud of our fears.**

When our doubts overwhelm us

**may we see your wounds afresh and believe.**

When we return to our old lives, and gather nothing,

**Meet us on the lakeside, and feed us again.**

**When we have lived today as though you remain just bones in a tomb, forgive us and meet us with words of hope and food for eternal life.**

**Listening for the Word of God -**

From The Common Lectionary for Evening Prayer, after which a period of silence is held.

**Canticle –** Optional

**19**When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”**20**

**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**

**21**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

**22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them**,

“Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:19–23.

Or,

18.But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead

**the first fruits of those who have died.**

22For as all die in Adam,

**so all will be made alive in Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22.

**Reflecting on our roots**

**We seek to be attentive**

**to Word and Spirit**

**contemplating in silence and conversation**

**in stillness and in service**

**the Triune God —**

**known and unknown**

**mystery and revelation —**

**present in Christ**

**within us**

**between us**

**and around us.**

**Bringing our concerns**

We pray for those who are bewildered, with hearts full of sadness and questions,

**In your mercy, grant them presence.**

We pray for those who are afraid, locked in the prison house of their anxieties,

**In your mercy, grant them your peace.**

We pray for those who are tempted to give up on faith and return to an old way of life,

**In your mercy, meet them with food for the journey**

We pray for those who have failed and denied you by their words or silence,

**In your mercy, assure them of the new beginning and fresh calling.**

We pray for those who are fearful of losing faith, or ashamed of their questions,

**In your mercy, hold them fast**

Time for silent prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**
**hallowed be your name,**
**your kingdom come,**
**your will be done,**
**on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins**
**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**
**Lead us not into temptation**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**
**and the glory are yours**
**now and for ever. Amen.**

**Going to love and rest**

Lord, let this your servant

now rest in peace.

My eyes have seen your glory

a light to all peoples

and the hope of the ages.

**Strengthen and renew us**

**that upon the waking morrow**

**we may serve you**

**in the power of your Spirit**

**and to the glory of your name. Amen**

Optional:

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

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