

Order for Baptist Ministry

Evening Prayer Mondays & Pentecost

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

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Edwin Hatch (1835–1889)

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

After the tongues of fire
and rushing wind,
the nine o'clock sermon and
the crowd's eager response;
After the baptisms and joyful surprise,
what did that evening bring?

Quiet joy and happy exhaustion?

**Countless conversations
and tired arms and backs?**

The Spirit's presence in the silence and the telling of stories and testimony?

Yes, and more:

The birth of a new age, and new day, and new task.

The recognition of the presence of Jesus
in the Spirit's anointing

and the fellowship of believers.

**And now, after millennia have passed,
the story expanded, and the church grown beyond imagining on that first Pentecost,
we come too,
tired from the days' ministry,
joyful at its surprises of faith,
rooted in the Spirit's presence
with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts and on our lips.**

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

Acknowledging our humanity

Spirit of Christ, where we trust ourselves and keep you distant,
Forgive us

Spirit of God, where we reject your gift of life in its divine fullness
Forgive us

Spirit of truth, where we listen to the lies rather than your words
Forgive us

**Come afresh and touch our lips with your fire; our hearts with your love; and our minds
with the gospel of grace and truth. Amen.**

Listening for the Word of God -

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

Canticle – Optional

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our mortal sight.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;

that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thine eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

After R. Maurus (c. 776–856)
trans. J Cosin (1594–1671)

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**

At the close of a busy day, grant your presence to all who are weary.
In your mercy, grant them your protection.

At the close of a sad day, grant your comfort to all who mourn,
In your mercy, grant them peace.

At the close of a happy day, bless all whose bright laughter has eased the burden of
others,
In your mercy, give them fulness of joy.

For all who have started a new venture, begun a fresh journey, and those who have laid
down old responsibilities,
In your mercy, grant them the Spirit' guidance and heaven's hope.

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.