

Order for Baptist Ministry

Evening Prayer – Thursday and Epiphany Revealing Lord

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

Abide with us, Lord Jesus

For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

or

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

From the *New Zealand Prayer Book*

Pause to reflect on the day

In what ways has God's presence been a light to us this day?

Celebrating the presence of God

Radiant God,
we give you praise that in all things this day,
Jesus, the Light of the World, has been a constant presence.
For his reckless, never ending, all-embracing love
that touches our lives
and persistently reaches out
to the life of the world,
we give you thanks.

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

Acknowledging our humanity

Revealing Lord,
where we have failed to walk in your marvellous light,
and not mirrored the light of Christ to the world closest to us,
forgive us.
(Silence)

***Grant to us your pardon and peace,
and by your Spirit enable us to live as your children
in the kingdom of your beloved Son.***

Listening for the Word of God

A reading from *The Common Lectionary* for Evening Prayer, after which a period of silence is held.

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

In quietness and trust we bring to God the concerns of the day.

We seek an awareness of the grace we need for the coming day.

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

Nunc Dimittis

***Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.
Luke 2:29-32***

Collect

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray;
and in your mercy defend us from all perils
and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

or

God, whose light makes even the darkness bright,
watch over us as we sleep.
Grant us rest and restoration,
and as we awake to a new day,
may your Word in Christ
be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Optional:

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

NRSV: 'New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.'