

## Order for Baptist Ministry

### Evening Prayer - Wednesday and Christmas

#### 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

*and*

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang  
when she to Bethlem in Judea came  
to be delivered of a son,  
the blessed Jesus was his name.

#### **Lullaby.**

"Sweet babe," sang she,  
and rocked him gently on her knee.  
William Ballet, Sixteenth century

*or*

As Mary watched her new-born son,  
**so, we watch and wait for you,  
risen Lord, and glorious one.**

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

Present in the rough-hewn manger,  
in the arms of Simeon;  
on the road to refuge,  
in the carpenter's workshop;  
on the mountain's pulpit,  
amongst the blind and deaf.

**You are present with us,  
Incarnate Lord**

Present on Calvary's cross,  
in the borrowed tomb;  
in the morning's sunrise,  
in the disciples' hiding-place;  
by the lakeside fire,  
in the ascending cloud.

**You are present with us,  
Incarnate Lord**

Present in the evening's rest,  
in the night's dark shadow;  
in the morning's light,  
in the new days' work;  
at life's first breath,  
at heaven's gate.

**You are present with us,  
Incarnate Lord**

*A pause to name any specific thanks or praise*

**Acknowledging our humanity**

At close of day like you, Jesus, we are weary,  
yet there is still much to be done.

**Grant us strength for the remainder of this day.**

At close of day, like you, Jesus,  
we turn to pray,  
yet our minds find prayer comes slowly.

**Give us strength to watch and pray**

At close of day, like you Jesus,  
we turn over events and words spoken,  
but unlike you, we find in them much that fails to shine with your glory,

**Forgive us, and renew us for the unfinished journey.**

**Listening for the Word of God -**

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

**Canticle – Optional**

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>**The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

**<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

**<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,**  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

**<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.**

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:1–9

## **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 go to bed hungry, or fearful; dejected or in pain.  
**Lord, meet them by your gracious Spirit.**

We pray for those who go to bed full, untouched by the plight of the poor,  
careless of the needs of the vulnerable.

**Lord, meet them by your gracious Spirit.**

We pray for those who go to bed  
yet shall not sleep, nor rest in peace,  
**Lord, meet them by your gracious Spirit.**

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.

*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.'*