

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

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock
of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
**²The 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.**

³His 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;
**⁴but 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.**

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around
his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his
loins.

**⁶The 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.**

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

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

⁹They 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

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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.