**Order for Baptist Ministry**

**Evening Prayer**

**Tuesdays and Advent**

**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

Lift up your heads, O gates!

and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

Psalm 24:7

or

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,**

**your coming shall proclaim;**

**and heaven's eternal arches ring**

**with your belovèd name.**

Philip Doddridge (1702–51)

**Celebrating the presence of God**

As the last leaves of autumn have fallen

and all the fire and gold of its splendour

has been exhausted,

**so, we come at the end of a day**

**remembering those glimpses of your glory seen in loving service,**

**heard in conversation**

**and known in gentle presence.**

Already the buds of tomorrow's

opportunities appear on the branch;

ready to break with the morning's light**.**

**But for now, we rest in the knowledge of your love and peace;**

**and ready ourselves for the night's rest.**

This is the time between the two Advents,

the coming of the babe of Bethlehem,

and the King of Glory,

**but this will draw to its close,**

**and all this age's splendour and sorrow fade as shadows of the night in the wonder of his return.**

Then with the dawn of that Day

all shall be complete, and Jesus shall reign from shore to shore,

**from heaven to heaven**

from age to age unceasing**,**

**and the Lamb shall be in the midst of that new City of God. Hallelujah!**

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

**Acknowledging our humanity**

Coming King, where we have not recognised your coming in the midst of life today,

**Forgive us**

Coming King, where we have allowed our lamps to be emptied of the oil of the Spirit,

**Forgive us**

Coming King, where we have not watched and waited for you today,

**Forgive us**

**Brush our flickering flame of desire for you with the breath of your Spirit, fan it into flame and let it burn bright again. 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, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,

hope of all the earth thou art;

dear desire of every nation,

joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;

born a child, and yet a king;

born to reign in us for ever;

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

rule in all our hearts alone;

by thin all-sufficient merit

raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

**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**

Where the world is filled with weeping,

**Gracious king, come afresh.**

Where the world is lost in shadow,

**Gracious king, come afresh.**

Where the world is cursed with revenge,

**Gracious king, come afresh.**

Where the world is crazed by power

**Gracious king, come afresh.**

Where the world has shut its doors upon your gracious presence,

**Gracious King, come afresh, knock again, that the gates of this world may be raised again to welcome you .**

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.’