

Monday Evening Prayer ::: Advent

with centering prayer / contemplative sit.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Invocation of a memorial or commemoration, as appropriate.

The leader may choose to begin with a confession or examination of conscience.

Bell x 3

Sentence

Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Luke 21.28

Gathering Words

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. **A light no shadow can hide.**

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm

The psalm of the day is said or chanted.

...Glory to You, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

The Reading *A reading of the day is read.*

The Contemplative Sit

The Principles of Centering Prayer.

1. Choose a sacred word or a sacred breath as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.

3. When engaged with your thoughts, return ever-so- gently to the sacred word. Thoughts include body sensations, feelings, images, and reflections.

4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

20 minutes of silence begins and ends with a bell. We bow toward each other.

The Responsory

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation: in your word is my hope.

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:in your word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be held in awe.

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:in your word is my hope.

Reveal among us the light of your presence, so that we may behold your power and glory.

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:in your word is my hope.

The Cantic: The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, *
for you, Lord, have looked with favour
on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, *
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors, *
to Sarah and Abraham and their children for ever.

...Glory to You, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, Source and Lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell,
he broke free the captives,
and is leading the way to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth as the body of Christ,
and empowers us to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through
the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment
of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany Church of England, alt.

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence.
God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Establish righteousness and justice in the nations.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in the shadow of death.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.

God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings
may be offered in silence or aloud.*

Collecting Prayers

These, or another collecting prayer (collect) may be said:

Advent 1 God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Advent 2 God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Advent 3 Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ who comes among us. Amen.

Advent 4 O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen. Anglican Church of Canada

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father (or Source, or Maker, or Parent) **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.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the manglers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy. **Amen**

The United Church of Canada.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God grant us a restful night and a peaceful death. **Amen.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

We stand, bow to each other, and depart in silence.

Bell x 3