

Wednesday Evening Prayer

2024 PAM Worship & Music Conference



Welcome to this service of evening prayer.

All of the scriptures relate to the theme of home and all of the hymns are from the Psalms of Ascent.

There are brief times of silence for reflection and opportunities for personal prayer.

As the service begins, a candle may be lighted.

OPENING SENTENCES

All may stand as the opening sentences are said.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.

Luke 24:29

Surely the Lord is in this place, and we did not know it.
This is none other than the house of God,
and this is the gate of heaven.

Gen. 28:16–17

As the hymn is sung, other candles may be lighted.

HYMN

O Come and Bless the Lord (Psalm 134)

FESTAL SONG

1. O come and bless the Lord, you min - is - ters of grace.
2. O come and bless the Lord; keep watch through - out the night.
3. O come and bless the Lord; lift up your hands and pray.
4. O come and bless the Lord, as all cre - a - tion sings

The bless - ing of the Ho - ly One is in this ver - y place.
The bless - ing of the Ho - ly One will be your guid - ing light.
The bless - ing of the Ho - ly One will send you on your way.
the bless - ing of the Ho - ly One, the mak - er of all things.



THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the beginning, O God,
you spoke, "Let there be light,"
creating this world, our home.

In the fullness of time,
your Word came to dwell among us,
the light of life for all people.

Throughout the ages,
you have given us light for the journey,
a pillar of fire to guide our way.

Now lead us to our eternal home
in your realm of endless light,
that we may greet your new creation
and sing your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



PSALM

I Look to You Alone, O Lord (Psalm 131)

WINCHESTER OLD

1. I look to you a - lone, O Lord; with hum - ble heart I wait,
 2. My soul is calm and qui - et now; no long - er do I thirst
 3. O peo - ple of the liv - ing God, our hope is in the Lord;

for - sak - ing high and ho - ly things, the mar - vel - ous and great.
 for com - fort from my moth - er's milk; I seek your pres - ence first.
 in God a - lone we put our trust, now and for - ev - er - more.

Silence follows for reflection.

Gentle God, you have embraced us
 in the tenderness of your mercy.
 Nourish us by your holy word,
 that we may live in faith, hope, and love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All may be seated.



SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:1, 5–9

For we know that, if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ... The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment. So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to the Lord.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence follows for reflection.



HYMN From the Depths, O God, I Call You (Psalm 130) KAS DZIEDAJA



1. From the depths, O God, I call you— will you lis - ten to my cry?
2. If you coun - ted our of - fens - es, lov - ing Sav - ior, who could stand?
3. I am wait - ing, I am long - ing for a word of sav - ing grace.
4. From the depths, O God, I call you— look with kind - ness from a - bove.



To the heav - ens I am sing - ing: hear my prayer, O God Most High.
But my hope is in your mer - cy and my life is in your hand.
More than those who watch for morn - ing, liv - ing God, I seek your face.
O Re - deem - er, come with pow - er and re - veal your stead - fast love.



THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Augustine, *Confessions*

Great are you, O Lord,
and greatly to be praised.

Especially we give you thanks for
the community of the church ...
the gifts of worship and music ...
the beauty of your creation ...
the love of family and friends ...
those who have served us this day ...

For what else do we give thanks?

O Lord, our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in you.

Especially we pray for
the church of Christ in every place ...
peace and justice in the world ...
the healing of creation ...
loved ones who are suffering ...
neighbors who are in need ...

For what else do we pray?

There may be silent prayer.

Lead us homeward, living God,
that we may follow you faithfully
all the way to our eternal home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said in the language of your homeland.

HYMN

In Times of Trouble and Distress (Psalm 121)

MC KEE

1. In times of trou - ble and dis - tress I lift my eyes and see—
 2. The Lord will meas - ure out your steps and guide you through each test—
 3. The Lord will cov - er you with grace and show you what is right—
 4. The Lord will keep you safe from harm and see you through the door—

the mak - er of the earth and stars is watch - ing o - ver me.
 un - til the saints are safe - ly home our God will nev - er rest.
 a ref - uge in the heat of day, a shel - ter in the night.
 your go - ing out and com - ing in for now and ev - er - more.



DISMISSAL

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

Isa. 2:5

Bless the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.**

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

SCRIPTURE New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, © 2021.

LITURGY David Gambrell, 2024 for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

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ARTWORK Red icons by Martha Kelly for the *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018).