



ADVENT PRAYERS FOR THE EVENING
CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 1, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Welcome to this evening service. In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. Masks are strongly encouraged. We are glad you are here.

Prelude *Reflection on “Conditor Alme Siderum”*

David Lasky

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening

“A Poem for the Feast of Christ the King”

Pamela Cranston

See how this infant boy
lifted himself down
into his humble crèche
and laid his tender glove of skin
against splintered wood—
found refuge in a rack
of straw—home
that chilly dawn,
in sweetest silage,
those shriven stalks.

This outcast king lifted
himself high upon his savage cross,
extended the regal banner
of his bones, draping himself
upon his throne—his battered feet,
his wounded hands not fastened
there by nails but sewn
by the strictest thorn of love.

A Prayer for the Evening

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done is done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

The Reading *Please be seated.*

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Silence is observed after the reading.

Music for Meditation *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Divinum Mysterium, arr. Timothy Hall

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Leader: Let us first of all pray for those who have no one to pray for them.

Leader: Let us pray for the concerns of our community, our families and friends, and all who have requested our prayers.

Leader: Let us pray for the Christian Church and for all people of faith.

Leader: Let us pray for our nation and for leaders around the world.

Leader: Let us pray for all who have died and for all who grieve.

Leader: Finally, let us give thanks for all that is lovely, true, and gracious in our world and in our lives.

Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving *Please be seated.*

During the instrumental music, you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayers. Please use the wooden lighters and return them to the sand containers to extinguish the flame.

Music for Meditation *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

15th century plainsong, arr. Robert Lau

Hymn *All Beautiful the March of Days*

Forest Green

Closing

**Holy One, come this night.
Open our hearts to the brightness of your love.
Release our fears and revive our hope,
that we may rest well and rise to share your love. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated in silence until the conclusion of the Music for Meditation when the bell will be rung.

Music for Meditation *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Hyfrydol, arr. Michael Larkin

Participants

The Rev. Robin Teasley
Timothy L. Hall, Organist and Choirmaster
Damon Lee Fowler, Lector

Christmas Eve service: Friday, December 24, 8:00 pm, Festival Holy Eucharist.

Lessons and Carols service: Sunday, December 26, 10:00 am.

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The texts in this liturgy are from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK.

A Prayer for the Evening, A New Zealand Prayer Book, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1988, page 184.

“A Poem for the Feast of Christ the King” by Pamela Cranston
Pamela Cranston, Searching for Nova Albion, (Wipf & Stock Publishers, Eugene, OR), 2019, p. 86.

Closing Collect from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, New York, 2014, page 19.