



ADVENT PRAYERS FOR THE EVENING  
CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 15, 2021

5:30 p.m.

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

**Music for Meditation** *Chorale*

Ola Gjeilo

**Participants**

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

**Christmas Eve Service:** Friday, December 24, 9:00 pm, Festival Holy Eucharist.

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

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[www.christandgrace.org](http://www.christandgrace.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristandGracePetersburg>

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.

“Patience” by Rabindranath Tagore, Poemhunter.com.

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

*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** *Prelude in C Major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening**

Patience

Rabindranath Tagore

If thou speakest not I will fill my heart with thy silence and endure it.  
I will keep still and wait like the night with starry vigil  
and its head bent low with patience.

The morning will surely come, the darkness will vanish,  
and thy voice pour down in golden streams breaking through the sky.

Then thy words will take wing in songs from every one of my birds' nests,  
and thy melodies will break forth in flowers in all my forest groves.

**Hymn** *O Holy Radiance, Joyous Light (Phos Hilaron)*

*Conditor Alme Siderum*

## 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 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Silence is observed after the reading.*

## Music for Meditation

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

W. L. Stevens

## 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

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. Mark Hayes

**Hymn 68** *Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

*Llangloffan*

## 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.**