



ADVENT PRAYERS FOR THE EVENING
CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 22, 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Gustav Holst, arr. Timothy Hall

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.

Christ and Grace Episcopal Church
1545 South Sycamore Street
Petersburg, VA 23805
(804) 733-7202

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.

“In Mary - Darkness” by Jessica Powers, 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 *Clair de lune*

Claude Debussy

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening

In Mary – Darkness

Jessica Powers

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
To be the dot above the Christus i,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
With hope's expectance of nativity.
I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

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 **1:39-45(46-55)**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

Silence is observed after the reading.

Music for Meditation

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum Mysterium, arr. John Carter

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

Michael Praetorius, arr. John Carter

Hymn *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Hyfrydol

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.**