

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

**Music for Meditation** *Now It is Evening*

Bozeman, arr. Carol Wahl

**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  
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<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.

“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.



ADVENT PRAYERS FOR THE EVENING  
CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 8, 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** *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

12th c. Plainsong, arr. Penny Rodriguez

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening**

Prepare

Jan Richardson

Strange how one word  
will so hollow you out.  
But this word  
has been in the wilderness  
for months.  
Years.

It may feel like  
the word is leveling you  
emptying you  
as it asks you  
to give up  
what you have known.

This word is what remained  
after everything else  
was worn away  
by sand and stone.  
It is what withstood  
the glaring of sun by day,  
the weeping loneliness of  
the moon at night.

It is impolite  
and hardly tame  
but when it falls  
upon your lips  
you will wonder  
at the sweetness

Now it comes to you  
racing out of the wild  
eyes blazing  
and waving its arms,  
its voice ragged with desert  
but piercing and loud  
as it speaks itself  
again and again.

like honey  
that finds its way  
into the hunger  
you had not known  
was there.

Prepare, prepare.

**Hymn** *O Holy Radiance, Joyous Light (Phos Hilaron)* (see insert) *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 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

*Silence is observed after the reading.*

**Music for Meditation** *I Wonder As I Wander* Appalachian carol, arr. Dan Forrest

**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** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Picardy, arr. Mark Hayes

**Hymn** *Now Bless the God of Israel* (see insert) *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.**