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JOYOUS LIGHT

EVENING PRAYER

Suggestions for Use

Joyous Light Evening Prayer is a contemporary setting of an ancient pattern of prayer, offered up in thanksgiving as daylight gives way to the shadows of night. In this setting, Ray Makeever has given new shape to the songs and psalms of an order of worship that has long brought a holy rest to the people of God.

This full score edition may be used by musical and liturgical leaders. An assembly edition is also available for participants. The parts marked **L** are intended to be sung by a worship leader; the parts marked **C** are for the congregation; parts marked **I** and **II** may be divided among groups, assigned to leader and congregation, or sung by all. Instrumental and vocal descants are optional.



SERVICE OF LIGHT. The symbolism of Jesus, the Light of the world, is enhanced when a large, plain, lighted candle is carried into the darkened worship space as the people stand and sing “Jesus Christ, Light of life.” The leader parts may be sung by the one bearing the candle, by another leader who follows the candle in procession, or by another musical leader. If there is no procession, the leader may stand near the candle in its place at the front or in the midst of the people.

The opening dialogue flows directly into “Joyous Light,” a paraphrase of a third century hymn, the *Phos hilaron*. Either one of these songs may also be sung independently. This song may be sung as presented, responsively between leader and congregation, or it may be sung by all. Other candles in the worship space may be lit during this time, including hand candles for worshipers if desired. After the spoken prayer of thanksgiving for light, all may be seated.

PSALM AND SONG. Psalm 141, a song for forgiveness and protection, has long been associated with evening prayer. Incense may be used to reinforce the sensory images of this psalm. Note the varying performance possibilities in the score. One or more psalms may be sung in addition to or in place of this psalm; several psalm songs are included in the appendix. A psalm prayer may conclude the silence for meditation that follows each psalm. In addition, another hymn or song, especially one appropriate to the time of day or season, may be sung; several songs by Ray Makeever are included in the appendix.

WORD. One or more scripture readings are included in evening prayer. A generous space for silence after psalms and readings supports the meditative character of evening prayer.

GOSPEL CANTICLE. Another long-standing association with evening prayer is the song of Mary, “My soul proclaims your greatness,” normally sung with the people standing. This setting may be interpreted in a triple meter “gospel” style. The church’s traditional prayer in the later evening has included the song of Simeon, “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace.” A setting of this song is included in the appendix and may be especially fitting as a gospel canticle for those occasions when this service is prayed late in the evening.

PRAYERS AND BLESSING. A litany form of prayer is reflected in “God of love, have mercy.” Note that the last note of each petition sung by the leader overlaps with the first note of the congregation’s response. Kneeling or sitting are postures that many people find conducive to prayer. Additional petition(s) may be crafted in addition or in place of those presented, and inserted before the final petition (9).

Following the concluding prayers and the Lord’s Prayer, the people may stand for the blessing, which may be sung or spoken.

JOYOUS LIGHT

Evening Prayer



SERVICE OF LIGHT

Opening Dialogue

Jesus Christ, Light of Life

$\text{♩} = 76-84$

Je-sus Christ, Light of life, shine in your peo-ple
E \flat B \flat Fm A \flat

here. Je-sus Christ, Light of life, shine in your peo-ple here.
B \flat sus B \flat E \flat B \flat Fm A \flat E \flat

C Instrument

Stay with us now; put fear to flight as eve-ning ush - ers in the night.
A \flat E \flat /G Fm B \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat /G G 7 Cm

continue with "Joyous Light" Optional ending

life, ☐ Light of life, shine in your peo - ple here.

Optional ending
E♭

Chords: B♭, Fm, B♭

Hymn of Light

♩ = 96-100

C Instrument

Joyous Light

here.

Refrain

☐ Joy - ous Light of glo - ry,

Chords: E♭, A♭, B♭

sa - cred Word made hu - man sto - ry, bless - ed Je - sus Christ,

Chords: Cm, E♭, A♭, E♭/B♭, B♭, E♭, A♭, B♭

PSALM AND SONG

Psalm 141

We Lift Our Hands in Prayer

♩ = 92

Refrain

□ We

C Instrument

lift our hands in prayer like in-cense ris - ing and

F B^b6/F F B^b9/F

last time to Coda ⊕

of-fer our lives to you, O God.

F B^b2/F F B^b2/F

Parts marked **I** and **II** may be sung by leader and congregation, choir and congregation, by two groups within the congregation, or by all.

WORD

Readings

One or more readings from the scriptures are proclaimed. Additional devotional readings may also be used. Silence for reflection may follow the readings.

In response to the readings, one or more of the following may be used: brief commentary; vocal or instrumental music; interpretation and reflection through visual arts or dance.

At the conclusion, a sentence such as the following may be spoken:

- The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.
- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Magnificat

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

$\text{♩} = 108-116$ Descant (Voice or C Instrument)

My soul pro - claims your great-ness, O

My soul pro - claims your great-ness, O God,

F B \flat

For an alternate, see "Lord, now you let your servant," pp. 28-30.

God, my spir-it re - joic - es in the love of my
 my spir-it re - joic - es in the love of my Sav - ior.

Gm Am Dm Gm⁷

Sav-ior. You have looked with fa - vor on my sim - ple
 You have looked with fa - vor on my sim - ple ways,

C F B \flat

ways, and I will praise you all of my days.
 and I will praise you all of my days.

Am Dm Gm C F

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

Litany

God of Love, Have Mercy

♩ = 80-84

Refrain

last time to Coda ⊕

God of love, have mer - cy, and lis - ten to our prayer.

(God.)

F Gm/F FM⁷ B \flat /F F Gm B \flat C_{sus} C

♩ = 76

Ⓛ Petitions

1 For peace born of heav - en, and
 2 For peace in the whole world, and
 3 For all those who gov - ern: give
 4 For all who work for jus - tice and
 5 For rain, sun, and har - vest, and
 6 For all who know af - flic - tion, des -
 7 For all those who suf - fer in
 8 For all our be - lov - ed, our
 9 Re - joic - ing in com - mu - nion with

☐ Let us pray with confidence
in the words our Savior gave us:

☑ **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

OR

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom,
and teach us to pray:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Blessing

Let Us Bless the Holy One

☐ Let us bless the Ho-ly One. ☑ To God our thanks we raise. ☐ May

F Gm/F FM⁷ B^b/F F Gm B^b Csus C

God Al-might-y bless us, guide us and de-fend us, and lead us in - to

F FM⁷ Gm B^b

life. ☑ A - men, a - men, a - men.

Csus4 Csus4 Csus4 F

You Show Us the Path of Life

Psalm 16

Ray Makeever

♩ = 88

Refrain

You show us the path of life; in your pres-ence, O God, there is

G C D G G/B

full-ness of joy. You show us the path of life; at your

Am⁷ D G C D

last time to Coda ⊕

right hand are plea-sures ev - er - more.

Am G/B C C/D G

1 Our dai - ly
2 So it is
3 Our hearts are

Rest in God Alone

Psalm 62

Ray Makeever

♩ = 72

Refrain

Rest in God a - lone, my soul; oh,

E♭ B♭ Cm Gm Cm

rest in God, my soul. soul.

Fm B♭7 E♭ B♭ E♭ (♯)

1 2

1 On - ly in God is my soul at rest. From
 2 On - ly in God be at rest, my soul; from
 3 God is my safe - ty and God my glo - ry. God

E♭/B♭ A♭/C B♭/D E♭

Open Our Lives to the Word

Ray Makeever

$\text{♩} = 96$

May our words, may our
griefs, may our
joys, may our

D C D⁷ G

songs, may our wor-ship this night fill up our hearts and
woes, may the sor-rows we share fill up our hearts and
smiles, may the gifts that we bring fill up our hearts and

D/F# C/E G C G

Am D G B C

give us new sight. May our prayers, may our praise give us light for our
call forth our care. May our tears, may our fears be ac-cept-ed right
stir us to sing. May we serve, may we dance, may we all take that

Holy One, in You Alone

Ray Makeever

$\text{♩} = 88$

Refrain

C Instrument

We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our

G D G/B C D G

home; Ho-ly One, in you a - lone.

D C⁹ G

To stanzas End

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

Nunc dimittis

Musical setting by Ray Makeever

$\text{♩} = 40-44$

The musical score is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation". Chord symbols are provided below the vocal line. A large "Preview" watermark is overlaid on the score.

Lord, now you let your ser -

F Bb

vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

F/C Gm Bb Csus C Bb² C⁷

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va -

F Bb/F F Bb

Come unto Me

Matt. 11: 28, 30, adapted R. M.

Ray Makeever

$\text{♩} = 88$

Come un-to me, all ye who la-bor;
 E A E B E B

come un-to me and I will give you rest. For my
 E A E F#m B

yoke, it is eas-y, and my bur-den, it is light.
 E A E F#m A

Come un-to me and rest.
 E/B A/B B E A E

Repeat as desired

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