Some music is omitted in this preview sample.
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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 1 and 2 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

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Joyous Light Evening Prayer

Hymn of Light

Joyous Light

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Psalm 141

We Lift Our Hands in Prayer

Refrain

We offer our lives to you, O God.

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

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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

For an alternate, see “Lord, now you let your servant,” pp. 28–30.
God, my spirit rejoices in the love of my 
my spirit rejoices in the love of my Savior.

You have looked with favor on my simple 
You have looked with favor on my simple ways,

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

Am Dm Gm C F
Litany

God of Love, Have Mercy

J = 80-84

(last time to Coda)

God of love, have mercy, and listen to our prayer.

J = 76

Petitions

1 For peace born of heaven, and
2 For peace in the whole world, and
3 For all those who govern: give
4 For all who work for justice and
5 For rain, sun, and harvest, and
6 For all who know affliction, desire
7 For all those who suffer in
8 For all our beloved, our
9 Rejoicing in communion with

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Let us bless the Holy One

Blessing

Let us bless the Holy One. To God our thanks we raise. May God Almighty bless us, guide us and defend us, and lead us into life. Amen, amen, amen.

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You Show Us the Path of Life

Psalm 16

Ray Makeever

Refrain

You show us the path of life; in your presence, O God, there is fulness of joy. You show us the path of life; at your right hand are pleasures ever more.

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Rest in God Alone

Psalm 62

Ray Makeever

\[ j = 72 \]

Refrain

Rest in God alone, my soul; oh, rest in God, my soul.

On ly in God is my soul at rest. From

On ly in God be at rest, my soul; from

God is my safety and God my glory. God

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Open Our Lives to the Word

Ray Makeever

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

songs, may our worship this night, fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and

woes, may the sorrows we share, fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and

smiles, may the gifts that we bring, fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and fill up our hearts and

give us new sight. May our prayers, may our prayers, may our prayers, may our prayers, may our prayers,
care. May our tears, may our tears, may our tears, may our tears, may our tears,
sing. May we serve, may we serve, may we serve, may we serve, may we serve,

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Holy One, in You Alone

Ray Makeever

\( \text{Refrain} \)

\[ \text{C Instrument} \]

\( \text{We do not call this world our own, yet we will make this earth our home; Holy One, in you alone.} \)

\( \text{D} \quad \text{C}^9 \quad \text{G} \)

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Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

*Nunc dimittis*

Musical setting by Ray Makeever

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Come unto Me

Matt. ii: 28, 30, adapted r. m.

Come unto me, all ye who labor;
come unto me and I will give you rest. For my yoke, it is easy, and my burden, it is light.
Come unto me and rest.

Ray Makeever

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