

**Evening Prayer Worship Service**  
**September 13, 2020 @ 5:30 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Evanston - The Parking Lot**

**Prelude**

**Opening Sentences**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

**All: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**and the day is almost over.**

Let your light scatter the darkness

**and illumine your church.**

God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!" is the same God who made light shine in our hearts to bring us the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of Christ.

**Evening Hymn**

*("Phos Hilarion," 3rd c., para. Robert Seymour Bridges, 1899, alt.,  
Glory to God Hymnal #672)*

**East: O gladsome light, O grace of our Creator's face,**

West: the eternal splendour wearing: celestial, holy, blest,

**East: our Savior Jesus Christ, joyful in your appearing.**

West: As fades the day's last light, we see the lamps of night

**East: our common hymn outpouring, O God of might unknown,**

West: you, the incarnate Son, and Spirit blest adoring.

**East: To you of right belongs all praise of holy songs,**

West: O Son of God, Lifegiver; you, therefore, O Most High,

**East: The world does glorify and shall exalt forever.**

**\*Thanksgiving for Light**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, by whose word the shadows of evening fall. Your wisdom opens the gates of morning; your understanding orders the changes of time and seasons; your will controls

the stars as they travel through the skies. You are the Creator of both night and day, making light recede before darkness, and darkness before light. You cause day to pass, and bring on the night, setting day and night apart. You are the Lord of hosts. Living and eternal God, rule over us always, to the end of time. Blessed are you, O Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

**All: Amen.**

*(We lift up our hands in praise,  
and our voices in words of praise, spoken silently and aloud.  
We conclude with one voice:)*

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Evening Psalm**

*(Psalm 141, NRSV)*

Odd: I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.

**Even: Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**

Odd: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.

**Even: Do not turn my heart to any evil,  
to busy myself with wicked deeds**

Odd: in company with those who work iniquity;  
do not let me eat of their delicacies.

**Even: Let the righteous strike me;  
let the faithful correct me.**

Odd: Never let the oil of the wicked anoint my head,  
for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.

**Even: When they are given over to those  
who shall condemn them,  
then they shall learn that my words were pleasant.**

Odd: Like a rock that one breaks apart and shatters on the land,  
so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol.

**Even: But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord;  
in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.**

Odd: Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me,  
and from the snares of evildoers.

**Even: Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I alone escape.**

Leader: Holy God,  
let the incense of our prayer ascend before you,  
and let your loving-kindness descend upon us,  
that with devoted hearts we may sing your praises  
with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host,  
and glorify you forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

*(Exodus 14:19-31)*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Canticle - Biblical Song**

*(Exodus 15:1b-11, 13, 20-21, NRSV)*

Front: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

**Back: The Lord is my strength and my might,  
and he has become my salvation;**

Front: this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**Back: The Lord is a warrior;  
the Lord is his name.**

Front: Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

**Back: The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.**

Front: Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

**Back: In the greatness of your majesty  
you overthrew your adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.**

Front: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,  
the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

**Back: The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."**

Front: You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

**Back: Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?**

Front: In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Leader: Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

**All: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."**

*(Together, we wait a few moments in silent reflection.)*

**\*Psalm Prayer**

**All: Tell out the deeds of the Lord;  
tell the wonders God has wrought.**

**Canticle - Biblical Song**

*("Magnificat" - "Song of Mary" - Luke 1:46-55,  
paraph. Miriam Therese Winter, 1979, Glory to God Hymnal #99)*

Soloist:

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.  
My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.  
From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.  
Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.  
Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

**Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**All: O God, in you I trust.**

*(We lift up our prayers of thanks and intercessory petitions*

*both silently and aloud,*

Leader: We lift our voices in prayers of praise, holy God, for you have lifted us to new life in Jesus Christ, and your blessings come in generous measure. Especially we thank you for:

*(we lift up our prayers of thanks both silently and aloud, including thanksgiving for...the privilege of worship and service in this congregation...the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ for us...food and drink to share in the Lord's name...our calling to discipleship...)*

We hold up before you human needs, God of compassion, for you have come to us in Jesus Christ and shared our life so we may share his resurrection. Especially we pray for:

*(we lift up our prayers of need both silently and aloud, including intercession for the healing of those who are sick... the comfort of the dying...the renewal of those who despair...the Spirit's power in the church...)*

Leader: As you have made this day, O God,  
you have also made this night.

Give light for comfort.

Come upon us with quietness and still our souls,  
that we may listen for the whisper of your Spirit  
and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams.

Empower us to rise again in new life  
to proclaim your praise,  
and show Christ to the world,  
for he reigns forever and ever.

**All: Amen**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

### **Evening Hymn**

*(Text: Taizé community, 1991; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1991;  
Glory to God hymnal, #678)*

Soloist: Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:  
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

### **Dismissal**

Leader: May the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**All: The Lord's name be praised.**

*(Please share a socially-distanced sign of Christ's peace.)*