

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

A Service of Choral Evening Prayer for All Saints' Day

Daily prayer has been a way of life and practice of faith for the people of God for millennia, from the psalmists of ancient Israel through the saints of the Christian Church. This service of Evening Prayer is designed to help you join the great cloud of witnesses – seeking the way of God in your life and the will of God for the world.

A distinctive feature of this service is the thanksgiving for light. As the day closes and darkness gathers, we give thanks for the light of Christ that has come into the world, the light that even death could not extinguish.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT *sung by the choir*

Daniel Gawthrop

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poets' gloss; words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute. In response to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices, and my soul finds primal eloquence, and wraps me in song.

If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby; if you would win my heart, sing me a love song; if you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to Heaven. Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure.

Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem. Love me, comfort me, bring me to God. Sing me a love song, sing me to Heaven.

—Jane Griner

WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb,
each holding a harp and golden bowls of incense,
which are the prayers of the saints.



1 The day thou gav - est, Lord, is end - ed; the dark - ness
 2 We thank thee that thy church un - sleep - ing, while earth rolls
 3 As o'er each con - ti - nent and is - land the dawn leads
 4 The sun that bids us rest is wak - ing thy chil - dren
 5 So be it, Lord; thy throne shall nev - er, like earth's proud

falls at thy be - hest. To thee our morn - ing
 on - ward in - to light, through all the world a
 on an - oth - er day, the voice of prayer is
 'neath the west - ern sky, and hour by hour fresh
 em - pires, pass a - way; thy king - dom stands, and

hymns as - cend - ed; thy praise shall hal - low now our rest.
 watch is keep - ing and rests not now by day or night.
 nev - er si - lent, nor dies the song of praise a - way.
 lips are mak - ing thy won - drous do - ings heard on high.
 grows for - ev - er un - til there dawns thy glo - rious day.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanks and praise to you, O God, for the gift of your glorious light—

shining at the dawn of creation, guiding us through the wilderness, leading us to the land of promise.

You sent Jesus, light of the world, to be our way of truth and life.

Help us to follow him each day and rest with him at night until at last we may come to dwell in your realm of endless light;

through Christ our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor are yours, O God, now and always.

Amen.

PSALM *sung by the choir*

Chant: C.F. South

I will always give thanks unto the Lord: his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
O praise the Lord with me: and let us magnify his Name together.
I sought the Lord, and he heard me: yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.
They had an eye unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.
Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him: yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him: and delivereth them.
O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints: for they that fear him lack nothing.
The lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.
The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants: and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
—Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (The Book of Common Prayer – The Church of England); Lesser Doxology

In silence after the Psalm, we continue to listen for God's voice.

PSALM PRAYER

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

—1 John 3:1-3

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

—Matthew 5:1-12

CANTICLE *sung by the choir*

A. Herbert Brewer

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed,
for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
—Song of Mary (Magnificat); Lesser Doxology

THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

ANTHEM *sung by the choir*

Charles Villiers Stanford

Beati quorum via integra est, qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

—Psalm 119:1

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.**

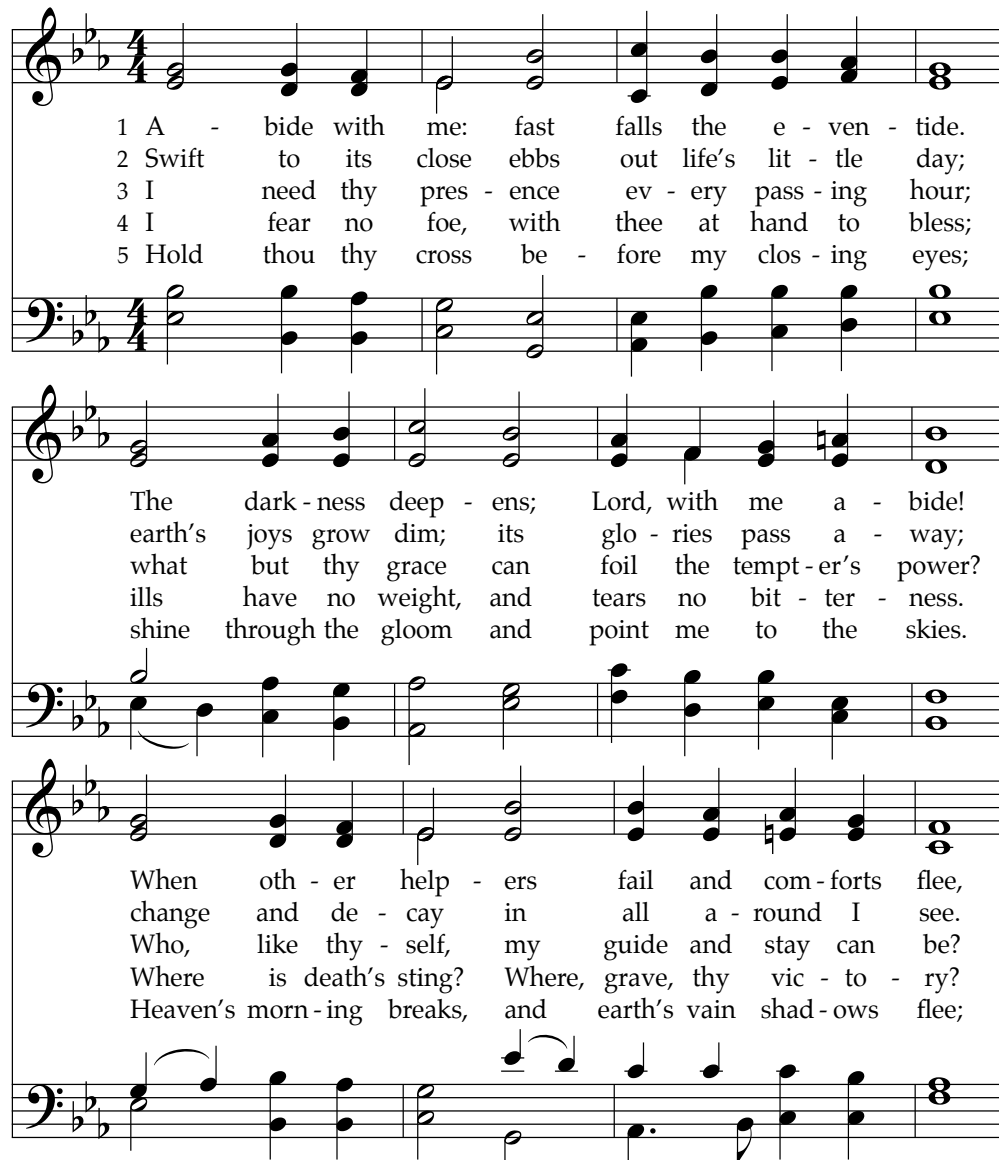
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

HYMN

EVENTIDE



1 A - bid with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid!
earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help-less, O a-bide with me.
 O thou who chang-est not, a-bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun-shine, Lord, a-bide with me.
 I tri-umph still, if thou a-bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a-bide with me.

DISMISSAL

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

LEADING TODAY

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

Hannah Faye Allred

Michael Shake, *Director of Music*

Soprano

Christina Angelopoulos

Samantha Noonan

Alto

Hannah Nacheman

Elizabeth Picker

Tenor

Brandon Hynum

Arri Lawton Simon

Bass

Andrew Martens

Richard Storm