



*A ministry and community of prayer of
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont*

A few notes about tonight's service.

Please leave your microphone on mute during the responsory portions of the service. You are welcome to unmute yourself when you are invited to offer your prayers, then remember to mute it again when you have completed your prayer.

An Order for Evening Prayer

Dedicated to Racial Healing

Advent Year C

The Officiant

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People

Thanks be to God.

Confession of Sin

The Officiant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

The Officiant then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

Officiant and People

Almighty God,

We have sinned against you,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes “us” for “you” and “our” for “your.”

Prayers for Lighting an Advent Wreath

After the prayer is said, you are encouraged to light a candle in your worship space.

Advent 1 November 28

Blessed are you, sovereign God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever. You called our forebearers to live
by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised
fulfillment. May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful
to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for
you are our light and our salvation.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

Hymn for Advent Wreath Lighting

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **Ask Kim+**

The Officiant

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Invitatory and Psalter

The Officiant then says

O God, be not far from us.

People Come quickly to help us, O God.

All Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*



O Gracious
Light.mov

Or

Light of the World *Phos hilaron*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

Then follows

Evening Psalm Antiphon

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:1-3,8ab *Domine, clamavi*

O God, I call to you; come to me quickly; *
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
Set a watch before my mouth,
O God, and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.
But my eyes are turned to you, O God; *
in you I take refuge

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my
hands as the evening sacrifice.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the
promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those
days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for
David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In
those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And
this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our
righteousness."

After the Readings, the Reader says

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis Luke 2:29-32*

O God, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of **Luke 21:25-36**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

After the Readings, the Reader says

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed so that we may reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.

Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

An alternative Lord's Prayer

Our loving God in heaven,
holy is your Name,
may your reign 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 all creation, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People for Advent

Deacon or other leader

All respond in bold

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people.

In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of

Christ the Morning Star.

Silence

Christ, be our light

Shine in our hearts.

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation, dispel the arrogance, animosity, and anger that shatter the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth.

Silence

Christ, be our light

Shine in our hearts.

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Silence

Christ, be our light

Shine in our hearts.

You who patterned the stars and called the sun into being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Silence

Christ, be our light

Shine in our hearts.

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering [especially _____]. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife [especially _____]. Shine the light of hope.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

You who delight in the complexity and splendor of creation, help us to delight in the diversity of this earth, our island home. Inspire your people to care for all you have made.

Silence

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts.

Officiant

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. *Amen.*

The Collects

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of evil, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear God, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

Together

For discernment for the future of the Diocese of Vermont

Gracious and loving God, of transformation and discovery, we give thanks that you call us to be your people in this time, and in this place. As you call us into deeper and uncertain waters, “to step out of the boat and go closer to Jesus,” we give thanks for the experience, gifts and skills of our diocesan household, represented by the Task Force for Hope, Revitalization, Innovation, Vision and Efficiency (THRIVE). Bless their efforts as they rally and shepherd us in our common work. We pray for open hearts and minds and for clear

vision, and never-ending reliance on your abundant and creative goodness. We pray for inspiration and guidance from your Holy Spirit, knowing that your power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. All this, we pray, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

People and Officiant

A prayer during Covid times

God of life, we offer our continued thanks for the gift of this day. As the pandemic continues, give us a spirit of hope and generosity, even as we are wearied by long months of uncertainty, tedious precautions, and the work it takes to love our neighbors as you loved us.

Grant eternal rest to the over 5 million people who have died from the coronavirus. Comfort and give relief to all who are depressed and mourn. We offer gratitude for medical staffs, caregivers, scientists, vaccines, treatments, and the blessing of each breath we take. Hear our prayers, and longing of our hearts, O Holy One. We pray this in the name of Jesus, in whom all our hopes are fulfilled. Amen.

Together

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift: You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression. Forgive us, Holy God. Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.

Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered. Please unmute yourself if you wish to share your prayer aloud. Remember to return your microphone to mute when you have completed your prayer.

The Officiant offers one or more concluding collects

The General Thanksgiving

The Officiant and People say together

Almighty God, of boundless mercy,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Savior Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips,
but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our best vision,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon As we await our coming Savior,
go in peace to love and serve Christ.

People To God be thanks forever.

Officiant

Concluding Sentences

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Liturgy created with the following resources:

Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, Saint Helena Breviary, A New Zealand Prayer Book and The Inclusive Bible, For Times of Transition - Joseph P. Shadle, For dismantling racism - Peggy Bonesteel and the prayer team of St. James Episcopal Church, Essex Jct., VT, with thanks to The Rev. Kim Hardy for cello playing, and <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/resources/>