

Liturgy for Advent Evening Prayers

Mondays thru Saturdays
Fourth Presbyterian Church
South Boston

6:00 pm GATHERING (A time for connecting meditation)

6:10 pm OPENING SENTENCES

One: Be with us this night, O Lord,
ALL: Be with us in our waiting,
One: Be with us this night, O Lord,
ALL: Be with us in our longing,
One: Be with us this night, O Lord,
ALL: Be with us in our sorrow,
One: Be with us this night, O Lord,
ALL: Be with us in our rejoicing,
One: Be with us this in these Advent days, O Lord,
and walk with us until your coming. Amen.

AN ADVENT PRAYER - Henri Nouwen (in unison)

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send
your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your
voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your
coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

SONG

READING & REFLECTION

COMMUNITY PRAYER (a time for shared prayer)

PASTORAL PRAYER.....concluding with.....

God of generations, your promises come to birth in surprising
ways. Fill our hearts with courage and hope and fill our dreams
with visions of new life so that we may live according to your
word and love with the fullness of your grace; in the holy name
of Jesus, our Savior, who taught us to pray these words.....

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BENEDICTION & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Songs for Advent Evening Prayers

COME THOUGH LONG EXPECTED JESUS (83)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE (87)

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT (97)

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray, news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

AWAY IN A MANGER (114)

Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus, Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky, Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, Look down from the sky
And stay by my side, 'Til morning is nigh.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (121)

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT (122)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (144)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen, Snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago.

What can I give him?, Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
But what I can I give him, Give him my heart.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS (145)

What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are
keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and Angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son, of Mary!

Advent Evening Prayers

November 27 – December 24, 2023

