

Liturgy for Advent Evening Prayers

Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston

6:00 pm GATHERING

6:10 pm OPENING SENTENCES

One: This is the time-

ALL: When Light fades.

One: This is the time-

ALL: When shadows lengthen.

One: This is the time-

ALL: When sounds are subdued, all as God intended.

One: This is the time-

ALL: When bodies relax.

One: This is the time-

ALL: When minds unwind.

One: This is the time-

ALL: When tiredness comes, all as God intended.

AN ADVENT PRAYER -

In the beginning, when it was dark, God said, "Let there be light." When the time was right, God sent the Son. He came amongst us, as one of us. Brother Jesus, be our guest this night as the darkness draws close and the air grows cold. In this cold winter of a weary world, where cruelty, hatred, and strife work their way to the bones, clothe us with your spirit, and warm us with your hope. As your presence warms our hearts, give us the strength to clothe the shivering, to hold those who weep, and to fill hungry bodies and hungry souls. Stay a while at this hearth, oh, Lord, and be with us this night. **Amen.**

SONG

READING & REFLECTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS (a time for shared prayer)

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO PRAYER

One: Brother Jesus, be our guest,

ALL: Stay with us for day is ending.

One: Bring to this place your poverty,

ALL: For then we shall be rich.

One: Bring to this place your pain,

ALL: That in sharing it, we may also share your joy.

One: With friend, with stranger, whether weary or worn,
be among us tonight,

**ALL: For the doors of this house are open, and the
doors our hearts we leave ajar.**

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

Suggested Songs

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.

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.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT (122)

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.

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!

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.

Dona Nobis Pacem

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit
Rejoices in you, you have looked with love on your servant here and
Blessed me all my life through;
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore,
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

You cast the mighty down from their thrones and uplifted the humble
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things and left the wealthy no part.
Great & mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love;
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness for evermore.

Advent Evening Prayers

December 1 – December 23, 2025

