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### Handout - Evening Prayer

Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts

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**Evening Prayer**  
**Friday, January 14, 2000, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Calvin Symposium on Worship and the Arts**

Evening prayer is a quiet service of light, psalms, scripture reading, and intercessory prayer. The service is centered around scripture-shaped, reflective meditation. Its quiet tone and focus on Christ-centered, everlasting peace is decidedly counter-cultural. This is spiritual refreshment for those who are spiritually thirsty.

This type of service is celebrated in many Christian traditions and by many types of congregations:

- ◆ Some “liturgical” churches have recently recovered the tradition of evening prayer as a service for either mid-week or Sunday use.
- ◆ Some churches in the Reformed and other Protestant traditions, which have long had two Sunday services, have recast their Sunday evening service in this form, adding a meditation after the scripture readings. See, for example, the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*, from which some of tonight’s texts have been drawn for sample texts and resources.
- ◆ Some evangelical churches, in the so-called “free church tradition,” have adapted this type of service for use as an additional Sunday or mid-week service.
- ◆ Some congregations with primarily “seeker-driven” worship have added a quiet service like this in the middle of the week to provide a balanced worship diet for their congregations (working toward a balance of presentational evangelistic services and more participational prayer services).
- ◆ Some urban churches have used a simplified version of this service, with perhaps one Psalm and one scripture reading, at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. for people to attend as the walk and or drive home from work.
- ◆ Some college and seminary campuses have added a quiet, reflective service of prayer like this at the end of the academic day.
- ◆ Many congregations use a simplified version of this service to end meetings of church councils, boards, sessions, or other working bodies. As one leader testified, “this type of service, even when quite simple, has led us beyond devotionals that are either too didactic in their teaching or too self-centered in their prayers.”

This service can be celebrated either formally or informally, very simply or with greater complexity. The genius of the service lies in its simple, yet balanced structure: (1) gathering in Jesus’ name, (2) Psalms, (3) scripture, and (4) prayer.

For tonight’s service, we have provided all of the music and prayer texts for you. But this same service could be celebrated with minor adaptations without a printed order of service. The music leader could teach the congregation musical refrains by singing them, and could announce the page numbers in the hymnal as necessary. Resources for this evening’s service are drawn from *Gather* (GIA Publications), *Psalter Hymnal* (CRC Publications), *Book of Common Worship* (Westminster/John Knox Press), and Marty Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer* (GIA Publications, G-3460 and G-3460A).

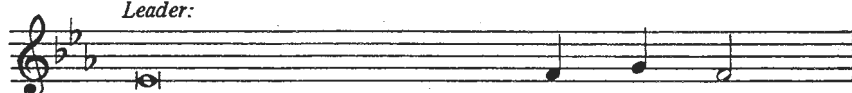
*Gathering in Jesus' Name*

Congregational Rehearsal

Quiet Reflection

Procession of Light


*Leader:*



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.

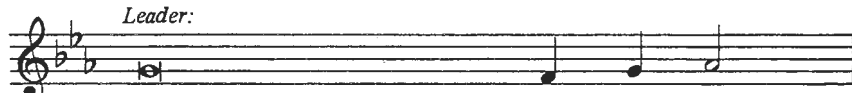
*All:*



the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

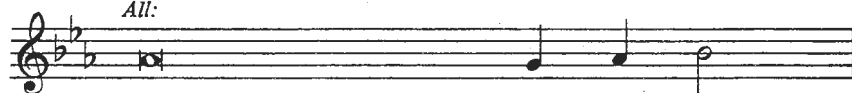
*Leader:*



Stay with us now, for it is evening,

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.

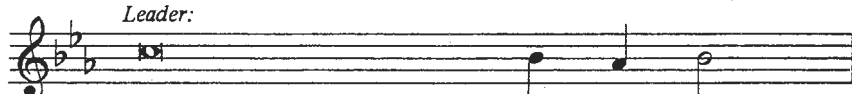
*All:*



and the day is al - most over.

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

*Leader:*



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4.

*All:*



and shine within your peo-ple here. —

*2 poco rit.*

Detailed description: A single staff of music in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody consists of a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The staff then changes to a 3/4 time signature for the final measure, which contains a half note G4. Above the final measure is a '2' and the instruction 'poco rit.'.

Evening Hymn: *Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory*, Marty Haugen



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



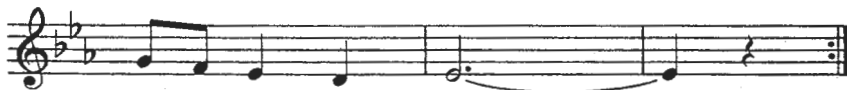
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

## Opening Prayer

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.**

We give you thanks and praise, O God of endless light,  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In him your light shines in our hearts  
And reveals the light that never fades.  
As daylight comes to an end  
And darkness begins to fall,  
We thank you for the light of day,  
Created for our work and pleasure,  
And bless you for the gift of this evening light.

Glory, praise, and honor are yours, O God,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever.  
Amen.

## *Psalms*

Psalm 141 (read)

Psalm Prayer

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**Amen.**

Psalm 61: *Listen to My Cry, LORD*, Psalter Hymnal 61

Stanzas 1-2: all

Stanza 3: all men and boys

Stanza 4: all women and girls

Stanzas 5-7: all

Psalm Prayer

God of power, deliver us from evil and confirm our trust in you, that at dusk we may sing of your justice and at dawn exult in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

Psalm 63: *My Soul Is Thirsting*, Michael Joncas

With longing  
Refrain

My soul is thirst-ing, my soul is thirst-ing,

my soul is thirst-ing for you, O Lord my God. God.

To verses Last time

Psalm Prayer

Creating God, deep within our hearts we year for your presence, and hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Satisfy us by the power of your Spirit, yet keep us restless to seek your will as we follow where Christ may lead. **Amen.**

Psalm 25: *To You, O Lord*, Marty Haugen

Refrain *mf*

To you, O Lord, I lift my

soul, to you, I lift my soul. Last time

Last time

Psalm Prayer

Covenanting God, remember not our sins, we ask in faith, but recall your compassion to your children. We turn to you for guidance and life, and long for you to turn to us and be gracious, that we may always follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

*Scripture Readings*

The light shines in the darkness.  
**And the darkness has not overcome it.**

Reading: Isaiah 65:1-17  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23: *Shepherd Me, O God*, Marty Haugen

*Refrain* (verses sung by cantor)

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system is marked *mp* and contains the lyrics: "Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -". The second system contains the lyrics: "yond my fears, from death in - to". The third system contains the lyrics: "life." and "life." and includes two directions: "To verses 1, 2, 3, 5" and "To verse 4".

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*

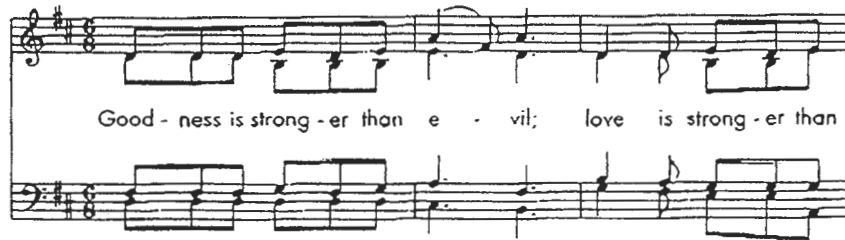
Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore. *Refrain*

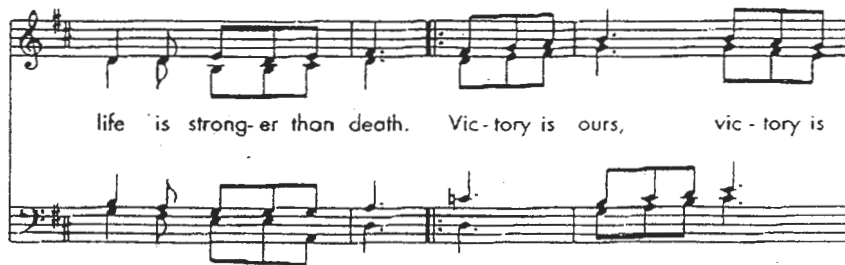
Reading: Romans 8:28-39, with refrain *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*, John Bell



Good - ness is strong - er than e - vil; love is strong - er than

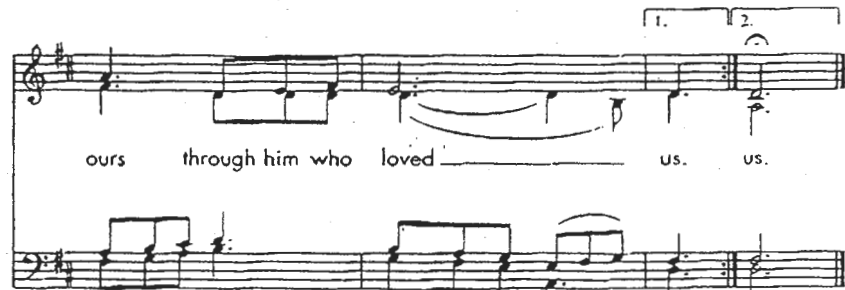


hate; light is strong - er than dark - ness;



life is strong - er than death. Vic - tory is ours, vic - tory is

Oh, Vic - tory is ours,



ours through him who loved us. us.

vic - tory is ours through him who loved us. us.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.



Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory Prayers

Sung Litany

**A** *All:*  
*Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

**B**

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*Leader:* **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-vation, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:  
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:  
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:  
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:  
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:  
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:  
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:  
10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:

*Leader:*

Help us, com-fort us, all of our days:

*All:*

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

### Song of Simeon, *Psalter Hymnal* 216

#### Blessing

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

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

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

#### Sign of Peace

We greet each other in the name of Jesus Christ, with the words "Christ's peace be with you," and we respond, "and also with you."

#### Depart quietly

## Leaders

Marty Haugen, cantor  
John Ferguson, organ  
Barbara Boertje De Vries, piano  
Margo Houts, reader  
Lester Ruth, reader

Barbara Boertje De Vries is Director of Music at First Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan and a member of the editorial committee for *Sing! A New Creation*, a hymnal supplement being prepared by CRC Publications, RCA Worship Commission, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

Margo Houts is Interim Associate Dean, Director of Academic Services, and Visiting Professor of Systematic Theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary/Southern California. She is serving on a collaborative research team sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship that is meeting in conjunction with this year's Symposium on Worship and the Arts.

Information on our other leaders is found in your conference brochure.

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Holden Evening Prayer, setting by Marty Haugen

1. Service of Light (Procession, Evening Hymn)
3. Litany

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My Soul Is Thirsting

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Music: Michael Joncas, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

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To You, O Lord

Text: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 12-14; Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL.

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Shepherd Me, O God

Text and music: Psalm 23; Marty Haugen

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Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

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