First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

An order for *Compline*, a late evening service

Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023 · 8:00 PM

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' *(completorium)*. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there are announcements or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, after a final song or anthem those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

The Prelude

"Vidit suum dulcem natum", *Stabat Mater* Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Madison Zahorsky, soprano

She saw her sweet offspring dying, forsaken, while He gave up his spirit
She saw her own dear Son dying, abandoned, while He gave up the ghost
She saw her dear Son dying, forsaken, as He yielded up His spirit
She saw her sweet offspring die, give up the ghost, abandoned
She saw her sweet Son dying, forsaken, as He gave up the spirit
She saw her sweet Son dying desolate as He gave up the spirit

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, she beheld her tender child, till His Spirit forth he sent.
Saw the Lord's Anointed taken, saw her Child in death forsaken, heard his last expiring cry
She beheld her gentle Child dying, forsaken and defiled, as his spirit passed away.
Saw Her Son from judgment taken, Her Beloved in death forsaken, Till His Spirit forth he sent.

The Preparation (congregation response in italics)

The Lord Almighty, grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. *Amen*

Friends, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour; whom resist, steadfast in the faith.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us: *Thanks be to God.*

(sung by cantors)
O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost (or Spirit).
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 134: (sung by cantors)
BEHOLD now, praise the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD;
2 Ye that by night stand in the house of the LORD, even in the courts of the house of our God.
3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and praise the LORD.
4 The LORD that made heaven and earth give thee blessing out of Sion.

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*

The Lesson- Luke 10:28-30
Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Amen*

The Respond (sung by cantors)
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.
I commend my spirit.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

The Hymn (sung by cantors)
Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
That with thy wonted favor thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally.

Nunc Dimittis (sung by cantors)
Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

The Prayers

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. *Amen*

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:
to be praised and glorified above all forever.
Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost:
let us praise him and magnify him forever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.
The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.
Amen

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
Through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins
And deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
And bring us to life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

(sung by cantors)
Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
that thy people may rejoice in thee?
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, hear our prayer;
and let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Conclusion (sung by cantors)
We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.
Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
bless us and preserve us. *Amen*

May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen*

Silence for contemplation
(depart in silence)