

Intro music: Adagio for strings, Op. 11a (Samuel Barber)

This is the time when light fades
and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued
– all as God intended.

Amen.

This is the time when bodies relax,
minds unwind, and tiredness comes
– all as God intended. Think over some of the things about our
world which make us feel sad, or which disturb us. Think of
areas where you feel powerless to change things for the better

Amen

This is the time when others greet the morning
while we meet the night,
and the world continues to sing,
in all the accents of creation,
a love-song to its Maker.

Blessed be God's Name.

Silence

Jesus you have drawn us here,
**From different homes
and from different backgrounds,
to unite us in your love.**

Time of reflection

Think over some of the things about our world which make us feel
sad, or which disturb us. Think of areas where you feel powerless to
change things for the better

Silence

Music: Gymnopedie No. 1 (Erik Satie)

Lord in our weakness,
we come to you for strength.

In our blindness,
we come to you for sight.

In our desire for good to be accomplished,
we come to you, the source of all goodness

In our longing for the coming of the Lord,
we approach you, the King of Kings

Think over some of the things about our world which bring to us joy,
and a sense of hope for the future. Think of areas where you can
make a positive change in the lives of others.

Silence

Music: Nocturne No 20 (Chopin)

Lord, our God,
**your light dispels all darkness,
your springs make deserts blossom;
the warmth of your love
melts what is frozen,
restores what was lost,
refreshes what was weary.**

In you, Lord God there is always hope
Because you have overcome sin and death,
And opened to us the gates of heaven.

Reading: Ephesians 1.11-20

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hope is not a doubtful wish; it is a joyful confidence about the future. Ask that God will increasingly open your mind to see the hope to which he has called you.

Music: Laudate Dominium (Monteverdi)

Heavenly Father, knowing that you love us, we come to you with our needs and concerns. We bring to you our desire for deeper faith, and a clearer understanding of your will for us.

Silence

Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

We bring to your love our reluctance to trust you and our longing to trust you more.

Silence

Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

We bring to your love all who rely and depend on us, and our concern not to let them down.

Silence

Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

We bring to your love all the areas of our life which have become too precious to us, and our desire to serve you more closely.

Silence

**Lord, you are our hope and our strength
and we put our trust in you**

What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night? Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray

You never sleep, God.

You are always awake, always watching, always willing the world and its people to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness, or worry, or fear; or for reasons they cannot understand.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight, will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently for a birth or a death, for a visit, or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And tonight, will you be close to those who wonder, who look for inspiration, who long to be with the one or the ones they love, who hope to recognise the right time when they can say 'I'm sorry,' or 'I love you,' or even 'Enough is enough.'

(pause)

God be near them.

God be near them.

And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrows, discoveries or questions we will take with us into the night.

(pause)

God be near us,

God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves – our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures – for all things come from you and are best kept in your care. **Amen**

Closing responses

For the day now done
Thanks be to God.

For the rest before us
Thanks be to God.

Because God never sleeps so that we can,
Thanks be to God.

But before the day is done,
let God's holy name be praised;
and let God's people say **Amen.**

Closing music: Schindler's List (John Williams)

Sources: IONA Community, & Reflective Services (Susan Sayers)

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Wednesday Worship
9th December 2020