

MORNING LITURGY J

(Adapted from "A Wee Worship Book" 5th Incarnation, Reproduced under One License #735867-A)

Silence as we gather.

Leader: In the beginning when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

All: And what God was, the Word was.

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said "Let there be light."

All: And there was light.

Leader: When the time was right, God sent the Son.

All: He came among us and was one of us.

Leader: Let us pray. You keep us waiting.... you the God of all time, ask us to wait for the right time to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

All: So we thank you for the time of waiting.

Leader: You keep us looking.....you, the God of all space, want us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope, for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

All: So we thank you for the time of looking.

Leader: You keep us loving....you, the God whose name is love, want us to be like you – to love the loveless and the unloved and the unlovely; to love without jealousy or design of threat; and most challenging of all, to love ourselves.

All: So we thank you for the times of loving.

Leader: And in all this, you keep us ... through hard questions with no easy answers; through failing where we hoped to succeed, and making an

impact when we questioned our value; through patience and encouragement and love of others, and through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you keep us.

All: So thank you for the times of keeping, now and for ever. Amen.

Leader: Listen now for words of life.

(A passage of Scripture is read).

Leader: Faithful God, let your word live within us.

(An additional reflection or brief reading may be offered).

Silence for Reflection

Prayers

Leader: Let us pray for light..... where the dark is doubly dark; where wrong dresses up as right and even saints can be distracted; where life has gone into a tunnel, and all that is known is confusing voices and stumbling blocks in the darkness; where faith and hope and love are in ashes, and light is needed to show the way.

Let us pray for a word from the Lord.... where human words can no longer be trusted; where voices from the past or present echo loudly to destroy self-worth or self-confidence; where the voice of the Church has been compromised by competing interests; and where the voice of God has seemed silent or submerged beneath jargon or inhumanity.

Let us pray for friends of God.... who bring encouragement where there is despair; who bring company where there is loneliness; who listen where a hard truth has to be shared; who bring change or conversion through kindness; who speak truth to power; whose presence, understanding or insight make a difference.

*(Additional prayers of thanksgiving or concern may be added aloud, ending with 'Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**').*

Leader: Help us, most Holy One, to hear you in the words of scripture and also to recognize your accent in the voices of the world.

All: Help us to see you in the good others do, and in the need which calls for love or justice.

Leader: Help us to love you and so to trust and follow you.

All: Take from us any desire for recognition or reward, and replace it with the quiet joy which comes from knowing that we do your will. Amen.

Closing Responses

Leader: For this time and this gathering and these people,

All: May Jesus Christ be praised.

Leader: By the faithful on earth and the saints in heaven,

All: May Jesus Christ be praised.

Leader: Through this day and every day until we meet again,

All: May Jesus Christ be praised.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.