



Hidden With Christ

WORD, SONG, AND SILENCE FOR THE TURNING

Lenten Vespers with Holy Communion

Since you have been raised with Christ,
pursue the things that are holy.

For you have died,
and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 2.12-13; 3.1-3

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

The word Lent comes from “lengthen”, the lengthening of days as Winter turns to Spring. As our planet moves into a fresh season, we pay attention to the movement of the Holy One within our lives, or our lives moving within the Holy One. Lent invites people of God to be in wonder about the mystery of faith and our mystical connection to Jesus Christ. Welcome to this moment of word, song and silence.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In baptism, we know we belong to Christ,

Many: sharing a partnership with God.

One: In baptism, we share Christ's death,

Many: witnessing the cross in the suffering of our world.

One: We also share Christ's new life:

Many: in the story of the empty tomb, in our trust of God today.

One: in the water, in the meal,

Many: in our prayer, in our song,

One: in our sure knowings,

Many: in our holy, wondering silences.

The people of God pause for a slow, deep breath.

One: In Lent, we journey with Jesus,

Many: our brother, mentor, friend, and Christ.

One: People of God, the Holy Spirit of Christ is with you.

Many: And also with you.

WITNESS OF OUR NEED

O Tender God, Have Mercy

Four staves of musical notation in treble clef, 4/4 time. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

O ten - der God, have mer - cy, for you are for us.

O liv - ing Christ, have mer - cy, for you will heal us.

O ten - der God, have mer - cy, for you are for us,

for you are for us.

PRAYER FOR PURITY

One: O Holy One,

**Many: Creator, Lover and Sustainer of all,
to you all hearts are open, and all desires known.
No secrets can be kept from your life within us.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may journey our lives with perfect love.**

**May our every word, gesture and intention
be dedicated to Christ's presence in this world.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
whose life we share.
Amen.**

READING ONE

All things have been created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ is before all things
and in Christ all things hold together.

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Christ
God was delighted to reconcile in holiness
all things.

Colossians 1.16-17, 19-20

A full silence follows.

MEDITATION SONG

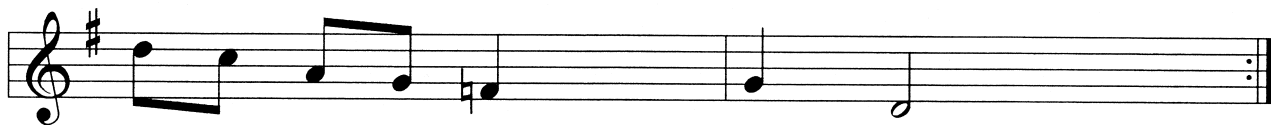
Open Unto Me



O - pen un - to me light for my dark-ness. Light for my dark - ness
O - pen un - to me strength for my weak-ness. Strength for my weak - ness
O - pen un - to me peace for my tur - moil. Peace for my tur - moil



o - pen un - to me. O - pen un - to me light for my dark - ness.
o - pen un - to me. O - pen un - to me strength for my weak - ness.
o - pen un - to me. O - pen un - to me peace for my tur - moil.



O - pen un - to me, O God.
O - pen un - to me, O God.
O - pen un - to me, O God.

READING TWO

When you were buried with Christ in baptism,
you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God.
And when you were dead in your struggle,
God made you alive together with Christ.

Since you have been raised with Christ,
pursue the things that are holy.

For you have died,
and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 2.12-13; 3.1-3

A full silence follows.

CENTERING HYMN

Hidden With Christ



Hid-den with Christ, hid - den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.



Hid-den with Christ, hid-den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.



We are the wit - nes - ses of gos - pel pos - si - bil - it - y,
Called from our wan - der - ing, and claimed — with our his - tor - y,
We are the car - ri - ers of hope for what the world can be,



lov - ing the world, liv - ing in mys - ter - y.
voice of our home, whis - per of mys - ter - y.
peop - le of faith, bear - ing the mys - ter - y.

READING THREE

One: As God's chosen ones, holy and loved, we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, tenderness and patience.

Many: We bear with one another, and in our disagreements, we are on the path of understanding and forgiveness.

One: Just as Christ has forgiven us, we too are free to forgive.

Many: Above all, we clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

One: And may the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which indeed we are called in the one body.

Many: Let us become ever more grateful people.

Colossians 3.12-15

A full silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Following a full silence,

One: O Holy One, as beloved of your Holy Spirit that inspires our prayers,

Many: and as partners in ministry with Jesus,

All: we offer you our prayers. Amen.

One: The peace of Christ is with you always.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us share signs of this peace with one another.

OFFERING

After the offering has been gathered:

One: For all we receive and all we give, we are grateful.

Many: Whether we are giving or receiving, we belong to Christ.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SONG OF THE TABLE

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, shar-ing our weak - ness, our
O Christ, Lamb of God, bear-ing our heal - ing, our
O Christ, Lamb of God, shar-ing our stor - y, our



weak - ness, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
heal - ing, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
stor - y, oh grant us, grant us your peace.



Oh grant us, grant us your peace. A - men.

*During the Meal, silence may be held,
or simple songs may be sung.*

THE BLESSING

One: May this meal strengthen us for the journey and knit us deeply into Christ's life.

Many: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go In Peace



Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in
We our - selves, we know the heal - ing you've pre -
We pro - claim the light to show you to the
Ho - ly One, now let your ser - vants go in



peace. Your word has been ful - filled.
pared, and all the world can see.
world, for glo - ry, Is - ra - el.
peace. Your word has been ful - filled.

PRAYER OF THANKS

One: O Living One,

We give you thanks for the gift of your son Jesus Christ in whom we find life.
As we have been nourished by this meal,
refresh us now to nourish the world.
Amen.

The people of God stand as able.

BENEDICTION

One: Now friends,

clothed in holy love,
knit into the life of Christ,
may the peace of God [+] rule in your hearts always.

Many: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O Christ, Surround Me



God, be the love to search and keep me;
 Bind to my - self the Name of Ho - ly,
 Bright - ness of sun and glow of moon - light,
 Walk - ing be - hind to hem my jour - ney,
 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,



God, be the prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to
 great cloud of wit - nes - ses en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles,
 flash - ing of light - ning, strength of wind, depth of the sea to
 go - ing a - head to light my way, and from be - neath, a -
 Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of



now up - hold me. O Christ, sur - round me,
 an - gels wit - ness. O Christ, sur - round me,
 soil of plan - et: O Christ, sur - round me,
 bove and all ways, O Christ, sur - round me,
 all who know me: O Christ, sur - round me,



O Christ sur - round me.
 O Christ sur - round me.
 O Christ sur - round me.
 O Christ sur - round me.
 O Christ sur - round me.

SENDING

Spoken quietly.

One: Go in peace and serve the world.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

The people depart quietly.

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