

EVENING PRAYER AT HOME ON CHRISTMAS EVE

STAY HOME AND PRAY TOGETHER!

Suggestions for the Saint Matthew's/San Mateo Church Family

You may use either the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), or the bilingual Selected Liturgies (SL) from the Book of Common Prayer for your Evening Prayer worship service. If you prefer, links to the Book of Common Prayer in English and Spanish may be found on our Saint Matthew's/San Mateo website.

You may prepare a space for worship, indoors or outdoors.

If more than one person is present, decide who will be the leader for the Evening Prayer service. The leader will look at the Prayer Book and decide which canticles and prayers to use for your worship. Family members can take turns leading the service, if you wish. If you live alone, consider calling someone from church and praying the service together over the phone.

If you can, place the Lectionary (the scripture readings and the collect for Christmas) with your prayer book when you prepare. There are links to the scriptures, collect, and sermon for the day on our Saint Matthew's/San Mateo web site.

If possible, begin your worship at 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Other members of the church family will be joining you in heart, soul, and mind.

In the church, we light six candles behind the altar for Morning and Evening Prayer services. At home, use a candle or candles if you like, but don't worry if you don't have candles available.

If you are using a candle or candles, light them before the service starts.

Be still together for a few minutes before you begin.

You may follow the Prayer Book rubrics (in italics), or use the following suggested order of Evening Prayer.

All stand if possible for the beginning of Evening Prayer.

The leader reads one (or more) of the scripture sentences, (BCP page 115-116 or SL page 71-73).

The leader introduces the confession, and all say it together (BCP page 116 or SL page 73).

The leader says the lay person's absolution (BCP page 117 or SL page 75).

The leader continues on the same page with the Invitatory sentence, and all read the response and the Gloria Patri with Alleluia.

All read together the *Phos hilaron* (BCP page 118 or SL page 77).

Everyone sits for the Psalm of the Day (BCP page 118 or SL page 77) from the Lectionary handout.

The other lessons from the Lectionary handout follow the Psalm. Usually, everyone sits for the readings, and stands to read together the canticles that follow each reading.

The reader introduces the readings, including the gospel, as follows: A reading from _____.

At the end of the readings, all respond with: Thanks be to God.

A reader reads the Old Testament lesson, then leads everyone in reading a canticle- (BCP pages 119-120 or SL pages 79-81).

A reader reads the Epistle, then leads everyone in reading another canticle from the pages above.

A reader reads the Gospel.

Then, the leader may read the sermon, if you wish.

All stand for the Apostles' Creed (BCP page 120 or SL page 81).

All may stand or kneel, and the leader leads the Prayers (BCP page 121 or 122 or SL page 83 or 85), choosing either option "A" or "B".

All pray together the Collect of the Day (from your Lectionary handout), and the Collect for the Presence of Christ (BCP page 124 or SL page 89).

The leader chooses one of the Prayers for Mission (BCP 124-125 or SL pages 89-91).

Next, the leader invites everyone to pray the prayers they have on their own hearts.

All pray together the General Thanksgiving (BCP page 125 or SL page 67) and the Prayer of Saint Chrysostom (BCP page 102 or SL page 69).

The leader reads the versicle (BCP page 126 or SL page 93), and all respond, adding alleluia!

Evening Prayer concludes with the leader reading one of the final scripture sentences (BCP page 126 or SL page 93).

After worship, be still together for a minute or two.

Know that all our times, day or night, are in God's loving hands!

Extinguish your candle(s).