

# Week 4: Dynamic Spirituality PRACTICE

## Day 1 (Sunday) - Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina means "Divine Reading" and is a contemplative way to read the scriptures. Lectio Divina is a way to meditate on the Scriptures. Our denominational devotional magazine, These Days, gives instructions in every issue on how to incorporate Lectio Divina into a daily devotional time:

- Pray for God's enabling, that you be open to God's word for you today.
- Read the scripture passage twice. 1st, to make yourself familiar with it, 2nd, to watch for a word or phrase that arrests your attention.
- · Mediate on this word or phrase, breathing deeply and quietly.
- Sit in silence, listening attentively for God's word for you today.
- · Read the devotional reflection.
- Pray, thanking God for the grace given.
- Consider making an entry in a reflection diary or journal.

If you do not currently use *These Days*, I encourage you to pick up a copy of this quarterly devotional in the Parish Hall today and try incorporating Lectio Divina into your daily schedule.

# Day 2 (Monday) - Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer, also known as Vespers or Evensong, is one of the seven traditional hours of prayer, known collectively as the Daily Office. In the Presbyterian Church, we have combined these seven hours of prayer into just four: Evening Prayer, Night Prayer, Morning Prayer, and Midday Prayer. The service for Monday Evening Prayer from our *Book of Common Worship* (2018) is attached to this handout. I encourage you to get your own copy of the Daily Prayer edition of the *Book of Common Worship* (2018), or to download the PC(USA) Daily Prayer app for your phone, tablet, or Kindle.

## Day 3 (Tuesday) - Bible Study

Consider attending Bible Study tomorrow, either in person at the church or via Zoom. For the Zoom link, email John Allen at <a href="mailto:pastor@unionpresfm.org">pastor@unionpresfm.org</a>. We are studying Great Themes of the Bible. Tomorrow is Part 2: "God is On the Side of the Poor."

## Day 4 (Wednesday) - Night Prayer

Night Prayer, also known as Compline, is typically said right before retiring for the night. This service is shorter than Evening Prayer. The liturgy for Night Prayer, from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) of the PC(USA), is included in this handout and is also found in the Daily Prayer edition of the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and in the Daily Prayer app.

## Day 5 (Thursday) - Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is also known as Matins. The liturgy for Thursday Morning Prayer, from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) of the PC(USA), is included in this handout and is also found in the Daily Prayer edition of the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and in the Daily Prayer app.

# Day 6 (Friday) - Midday Prayer

Just as Night Prayer (Compline) is briefer than Evening Prayer, so Midday Prayer is briefer than Morning Prayer. The liturgy for Midday Prayer, from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) of the PC(USA), is included in this handout and is also found in the Daily Prayer edition of the *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and in the Daily Prayer app.

# Day 7 (Saturday) - Sunday School

Please consider making plans to attend Sunday School on the Lord's Day. Sunday School begins at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall with a brief assembly and then we divide into Children's, Youth, and Adult Classes. The Adult Sunday School lesson will be on Luke 6:27-38 and is entitled "Listen and Love."

# Next Sunday: Week 5: Joyful Generosity

Worship Information: The scriptures for next Sunday are Isaiah 25:6-9 and Luke 15:1-3a, 11-24. I encourage you to read the scriptures either Saturday night or Sunday morning in preparation for worship.

# **Monday Evening Prayer**

If a shorter service is desired, the thanksgiving for light and Psalm 141 may be omitted. The service then continues with the additional psalm(s).

The lights of the room may be dimmed. As the service begins, a large candle is lighted.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

All may stand as these or other opening sentences (856) are said.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over.

Luke 24:29

I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light around me to become night, but even darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day; for darkness is as light with you. Ps. 139:11-12

#### **EVENING HYMN**

As the Phos Hilaron ("Hymn to Christ the Light," 1081 GTG 671–73; PH 548–50; PS 167–69) or another evening hymn is sung, other candles are lighted from the large candle and the lights of the room may be brightened.

#### THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord God, Light of all lights, we worship you and glorify your name. You appeared to your servant Moses in the flames of a bush that burned yet was not consumed. You revealed to him the holiness of your name:
I am who I am.
Then you came to us in Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.
His life was extinguished, yet he rose from the dead!
He spoke to us your promise:
I am the light of the world.

Let our hearts burn within us this night with the light of Christ's life—the light that can never die—so that we may live each day to speak your truth and do your will; all to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.** 

PSALM(S) Evening Psalms for Monday, 17 Feb, 2025:

Psalm 141 Psalm 97 Psalm 112

Scripture Readings for Monday, 17 Feb, 2025:

Isaiah 63:1-6 I Timothy 1:1-17 Mark 11:1-11

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 11:1-11

## After the reading:

1 The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2 Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.

Silence follows for reflection on the meaning of the scripture.

The scripture may be briefly interpreted, or a nonbiblical reading may be read.

#### **C**ANTICLE

All may stand. The Magnificat ("Song of Mary," Luke 1:46–55; 1079; GTG 99, 100, or 646; PH 600; PS 161–63) or a hymn may be sung.

#### THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Let my prayer rise before you as incense, O Lord, *Ps. 141:2* **the lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice.** 

We rejoice in your generous goodness, O God, and celebrate your lavish gifts to us this day, for you have shown your love in giving Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Especially we give thanks for the faith, life, and worship of the church . . . the sky above us and the water around us . . . people who have helped us this day . . . occasions for our work to help others . . . surprises that have blessed us . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "People of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

Gracious God, we know you are close to all in need, and by our prayers for others we come closer to you. We are bold to claim for others your promises of new life in Jesus Christ, as we claim them for ourselves.

Especially we pray for the Roman Catholic Church . . . the victims of violence or warfare . . . those who are hungry and thirsty . . . those who share what they have with others . . . the healing of those who are sick . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "People of God, for what else do we pray?"

## There may be silent prayer.

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken. Unite us with the scattered peoples of the earth that we may be one family of your children. Bind up all our wounds, and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

The Lord's Prayer is sung (GTG 464; PH 571, 589, or 590; PS 192–95) or said (28, 144).

An evening hymn (GTG 195, 675, 696, 810, 836; PH 541–49) may be sung.

#### **DISMISSAL**

May the God of peace sanctify us entirely; and may our spirits and souls and bodies be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

1 Thess. 5:23

Bless the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

# **Night Prayer**

For Christians, Night Prayer (or Prayer at the Close of Day) is connected with the baptismal rhythm of dying with Christ so that we may rise to walk in newness of life with him each new day. This is the only service of daily prayer that includes confession, since the confession of sin is part of this baptismal pattern.

#### ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Sentences
Hymn
Prayer of Confession
Psalm
Scripture
Prayer
Canticle
Dismissal

Due to the brevity of this service and the importance of every element, an abbreviated order is not provided.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

All may stand.

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

The Lord grant us a restful night and peace at the last. **Amen.** 

#### HYMN

A hymn appropriate to the end of the day (GTG 195, 675, 696, 810, 836; PH 541–49) may be sung.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, maker of all things, have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, have mercy on us.

Ps. 70:1

## There is a brief period of silence for self-examination.

1 Holy and merciful God,
in your presence I confess
my sinfulness, my shortcomings,
and my offenses against you.
You alone know how often I have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on me, O Lord. By your loving mercy, help me to live in your light and abide in your ways for the sake of Jesus Christ my Savior.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my beloved in Christ, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and pray God Almighty to have mercy on me.

> May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, and give you time to amend your life. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my beloved in Christ, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and pray God Almighty to have mercy on me. May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, and give you time to amend your life. **Amen.** 

All are seated.

#### **PSALM**

Night Psalms for Wednesday, 19 Feb, 2025: Psalm 48 Psalm 4

#### **S**CRIPTURE

Saturday Rom. 8:38–39

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Sunday** Matt. 11:28–30

Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Monday Matt.* 6:31–34

Do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*Tuesday* 1 *John* 4:18–20

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

Wednesday Rev. 22:3–5

The servants of the Lamb will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Thursday John 14:27

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Friday Deut. 6:4–7

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

## After the reading:

1 The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2 Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.

Silence follows for reflection on the meaning of the scripture.

### **PRAYER**

## Saturday

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Ps. 27:1

### Whom shall I fear?

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Sunday

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Ps. 80:19

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

O God, you have designed this wonderful world, and know all things good for us. Give us such faith that, by day and by night, at all times and in all places, we may without fear entrust those who are dear to us to your never-failing love, in this life and in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Monday

Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye; hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Ps. 17:8

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

# Tuesday

In righteousness I shall see your face, O Lord; when I awake your presence shall give me joy.

Ps. 17:15

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

O God, who appointed the day for labor and the night for rest:
Grant that we may rest in peace and quietness during the coming night so that tomorrow we may go forth to our appointed labors.

Take us into your holy keeping, that no evil may befall us nor any ill come near our home. When at last our days are ended and our work is finished, grant that we may depart in your peace, in the sure hope of that glorious kingdom where there is day without night, light without darkness, and life without shadow of death forever; through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

## Wednesday

O God, come to our assistance.

Ps. 70:1

O Lord, hasten to help us.

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer, Then a concluding prayer is said;

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Thursday

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit; *Ps. 31:5* **for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.** 

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

## Friday

I will lie down in peace and take my rest, for in God alone I dwell unafraid.

Ps. 4:8

Thanksgivings and intercessions may be offered. There may be silent prayer. Then a concluding prayer is said:

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

The Lord's Prayer is sung (GTG 464; PH 571, 589, or 590; PS 192–95) or said (28, 144).

#### CANTICLE

All may stand. The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29–32; 1080 GTG 545; PH 603–5; PS 165–66) or a hymn may be sung. This refrain may be sung or spoken:

Guide us waking, O Lord, and 'guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest 'in his peace.

#### DISMISSAL

May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore. **Amen.** 

Bless the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

# **Thursday Morning Prayer**

If a shorter service is desired, the thanksgiving for Baptism may be omitted. The service then continues with the additional psalm(s).

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

All may stand as these or other opening sentences (896) are said:

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Ps. 51:15

Alleluia! Rev. 19:6–7 For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory.

#### MORNING PSALM OR HYMN

Invitatory Psalm for Thursday, 20 Feb, 2025: Psalm 95:1-7

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

At the baptismal font or bowl of water, the leader prays:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, we give you thanks that through the gift of our baptism you call us to a new way of life in your realm of grace and peace. By the power of your Holy Spirit, let your will be done in our lives and in this world that you love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

# PSALM(S)

Morning Psalms for Thursday, 20 Feb, 2025: Psalm 36 Psalm 147:12-20 Scripture Readings for Thursday, 20 Feb, 2025:

**S**CRIPTURE

Isaiah 65:1-12 I Timothy 4:1-16

Mark 12:13-27 *After the reading:* 

1 The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2 Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.

Silence follows for reflection on the meaning of the scripture.

The scripture may be briefly interpreted, or a nonbiblical reading may be read.

#### **C**ANTICLE

All may stand. The Benedictus (Song of Zechariah, Luke 1:68–79; 1078; GTG 109; PH 601–2; PS 158–60) or a hymn may be sung.

#### THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Satisfy us with your love in the morning, and we will live this day in joy and praise.

Ps. 90:14

Loving God, as the rising sun chases away the night, so you have scattered the power of death in the rising of Jesus Christ, and you bring us all blessings in him.

Especially we thank you for the ministry of Word and Sacrament . . . those who serve and care for others . . . the affection of our friends . . . your call to love and serve one another . . . the presence and power of your Spirit . . .

Individual prayers of thanksgiving may be invited, asking: "People of God, for what else do we give thanks?"

Mighty God, with the dawn of your love you reveal your victory over all that would destroy or harm, and you brighten the lives of all who need you.

Especially we pray for the church in the Pacific region . . . endangered species of animals and plants . . . those who are isolated by sickness or sorrow . . . those who suffer mental anguish . . . all who seek the way and truth of Christ . . .

Individual prayers of intercession may be invited, asking: "People of God, for what else do we pray?"

There may be silent prayer.

Holy God, your love is higher than the heavens and your grace is wider than the sea. Awaken our hearts to the joy of your presence and open our lips to sing your praise; to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

The Lord's Prayer is sung (GTG 464; PH 571, 589, or 590; PS 192–95) or said (28, 144).

A morning hymn (GTG 662–70; PH 454–91) may be sung.

#### DISMISSAL

Let us serve the Lord with gladness. Amen.

Ps. 100:2

Bless the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

# Midday Prayer

At the height of the day, we pause to give thanks for the fullness of light and life in Jesus Christ, and to pray for God's grace as the day continues into night.

#### ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Sentences

Hymn

Psalm(s)

Scripture

Prayer

Dismissal

When a person is worshiping alone, or in a family group, or when circumstances call for an abbreviated order, the following is suggested:

Psalm(s)

Scripture

Prayer

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

Opening sentences from the additional texts for seasons and festivals at morning (896) and evening prayer (856) may also be used.

## All may stand.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

Ps. 124:8

#### Sunday

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

Mal. 1:11

## Monday

Like an eagle teaching her young to fly, catching them safely on her spreading wings, the Lord kept Israel from falling.

Deut. 32:11

#### **Tuesday**

Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed.
They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.

Isa. 40:31

## Wednesday

The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Ps. 50:1

## **Thursday**

The Lord God is a sun and shield Ps. 84:11–12 bestowing favor and honor. Happy are those who trust in God.

## Friday

Commit your way to the Lord;

Ps. 37:5–6

trust in God, who will deliver you.

Your salvation will shine like light;

your redemption, like the noonday sun.

## Saturday

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

who alone does great wonders;

who made the sun to rule the day.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

*The opening sentences conclude:* 

Praise the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

#### HYMN

A hymn may be sung (GTG 679–84; PH 454–68). All are then seated.

# PSALM(S)

Midday Psalms for Friday, 21 Feb, 2025:

Psalm 130

Psalm 148 Scripture Readings for Friday, 21 Feb, 2025:

Isaiah 65:17-25

SCRIPTURE I Timothy 5:17-22

After the reading:

1 The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2 Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.

Silence follows for reflection on the meaning of the scripture.

#### **PRAYER**

All may stand. There may be a brief time of prayer, spoken or silent, in which the promises of God are claimed for individual and corporate needs and concerns. The thanksgivings and intercessions for morning prayer (874–903) or evening (834–66) or may also be used at this time.

## Sunday

Eternal God, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## Monday

God, our creator, you have given us work to do and call us to use our talents for the good of all. Guide us as we work, and teach us to live in the Spirit who made us your children, in the love that made us one body, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## Tuesday

By your Holy Spirit, O God, give us hearts to love you, minds to know you, souls to bless you, and strength to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## Wednesday

Eternal God, your hand shaped our lives by grace and your hand rescued us from sin by love. May your hand guide us through this day, shielding us from all evil, strengthening us to do justice and love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# Thursday

New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us the desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.** 

## Friday

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be drawn to your redeeming love; for your kingdom's sake. **Amen.** 

## Saturday

Holy God, by the grace of your Spirit, may these prayers be more than words. Teach us to pray without ceasing that your will may be done in our lives; to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

The Lord's Prayer is sung (GTG 464; PH 571, 589, or 590; PS 192–95) or said (28 144).

#### DISMISSAL

The God of peace be with us. Amen.

Phil. 4:9

Bless the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.