An Order for Evening Prayer

Opening *(light a candle if possible)*

Hymn of Light *(if not singing this song, begin with Psalm 141 below)*

Psalmody

Psalm 141 *(read alternately between presider and assembly)*

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;

*Hear my voice when I cry to you.*

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,

_The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice._

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,

_And guard the door of my lips._

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;

_Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers._

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God,

_In you I take refuge; do not strip me of my life._
Word

Reading: Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “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.”

A time of silent reflection on the text.

Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord,
   Lord have mercy.
For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
   Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
   Lord, have mercy.
For this city of Geneva in which we gather from across our communion, for the cities and countries from which we come and for the wellbeing of all creatures, let us pray to the Lord.
   Lord, have mercy.
For this gathering, for honest searching and open dialogue and creative ways to further the proclamation of your Gospel in the world...
   Lord, have mercy.
For what else do we pray either out loud or in our hearts

[ name special needs of the day, the meeting, the world, our lives… ]
   Lord, have mercy.
Remembering all who have gone before us in the faith, and the path we are called to walk together as a communion, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our God.
   To you, O Lord.

The Lord’s Prayer (each in their own language)

Blessing

Holy Eternal Majesty, Holy Incarnate Word, Holy Abiding Spirit (+), one God, bless and preserve us.
Amen.