

# A SHORTER EVENING LITURGY

## Opening Meditation

Leader: When the lights are on and the house is full,  
and the laughter is easy,  
and all is well -

Cantor Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader: When the lights are low, and the house is still,  
And the talk is intense,  
And the air is full of wondering -

Cantor Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader When the lights are out and the house is sad,  
And the voice is troubled,  
And nothing seems right -

Cantor Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader And tonight, always tonight,  
As if there were no other people,  
no other house,  
no other door -

Cantor Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
Stay with us for day is ending.  
Bring to our house your poverty

ALL: FOR THEN WE SHALL BE RICH.

Leader Bring to our house your pain

ALL THAT SHARING IT, WE MAY ALSO SHARE YOUR JOY.

Leader Bring to our house, your understanding of us

ALL THAT WE MAY BE FREED TO LEARN MORE OF YOU

Leader Bring to our house all those who hurry or hobble (hobble) behind you

ALL THAT WE MAY MEET YOU AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL.

Leader Bring to our house your Holy Spirit

ALL THAT THIS MAY BE A CRADLE OF YOUR LOVE.

Leader With friend, with stranger,  
With neighbor and the well-known ones,  
Be among us tonight.

ALL FOR THE DOORS OF OUR HOUSE WE OPEN,  
AND THE DOORS OF OUR HEARTS WE LEAVE AJAR. AMEN.

GOD'S WORD TO US

## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

(each prayer should be followed by a silence during which names may be mentioned by anyone present; and end, if possible, with a sung response e.g. Lord, draw near.)

Leader Let us hold before God in confidence:

the ones who laugh when we are funny  
and the ones who make us smile at ourselves;  
  
the ones for whom we weep,  
and the ones who, in joy or sorrow, weep for us,  
  
the ones who worry that we may be lonely,  
and the ones who ensure that that does not happen;  
  
the ones who feed our minds and our bodies,  
and the ones with whom we share faith and break bread;  
  
the ones who reveal in themselves what is hidden,  
and the ones who treat as precious all we confide in them;  
  
The ones who, tonight, we want to pray for,  
and the ones who, unasked, tonight will pray for us.

And let us praise God

for the one from whom we are sent,  
the one to whom we are summoned,  
whose image we are,  
whose flesh we share,  
whose love is all

ALL

AMEN

## A Song or Hymn

### Closing Responses

Leader On our Hearts and our Houses

ALL THE BLESSING OF GOD.

Leader In our coming and going

ALL THE PEACE OF GOD

Leader At our end and new beginning

ALL THE ARMS OF GOD TO WELCOME US  
AND BRING US HOME. AMEN.