



# Candlelit Compline

for the Feast of the Presentation

Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:30 p.m.

*Kindly silence are mobile devices. Thank you.*

Order of Service for Compline

*adapt. David Hurd*

Introit

'Prayer for the Blessing of Light'

*Malcolm Archer*

Opening Sentence

Confession of Sin

Psalm 84

*Plainsong (Tone 8)*

Hymn

'O gracious light'

*Thomas Tallis*

Lesson

*Luke 2:22-40*

Responsory

The Lord's Prayer

Collects and Prayers

Canticle

'Nunc dimittis'

*Orlando Gibbons*

Concluding Versicle and Blessing

Anthem

'Hide me under the shadow of thy wings'

*John E. West*

*All may depart after the choirs process out of the Sanctuary.*

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Adult Choir from Christ Church Parish, Stevensville, MD  
The Very Rev Mark Delcuze, *Rector*  
Gary Van Essen, *Minister of Music*

The Adult Choir from St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis, MD  
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*  
Jim Douglas, *Director of Music*

## ABOUT COMPLINE

For centuries communities of consecrated men and women have ordered their daily living by gathering at designated times of the day for prayer, the reading of scripture and the ordered recitation or singing of psalms and hymns known as The Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours is comprised of seven services known as offices: Vigils (night/pre-dawn), Lauds (at dawn), Prime (the first hour, 6 am), Terce (the third hour, 9 am), Sext (the sixth hour, 12 noon), None (the ninth hour, 3 pm), Vespers (evening prayer, "at the lighting of the lamps"), and Compline (before retiring). Some are lengthy; these are known as the Major Hours (Vigils, Lauds and Vespers). The others are short and known as the Minor Hours. Central to the offices is the recitation of the entire book of Psalms - all 150 - in a cycle over the course of one or two weeks, organized to reflect the particular ethos of each office. During the English Reformation Vespers and Compline were consolidated to form Evensong. The present-day renewal of Compline began in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a result of interest in pre-Reformation worship practices and spirituality. This movement also restored the Eucharist as the central act of worship in the spiritual life of the Church. Compline is a contemplative office and places its emphasis on spiritual peace. It takes its name from the Latin word *completorium*, meaning completion, as it marks the completion of the working day through its focus on preparing the body for temporal rest as well as preparing the soul for its passage to eternal life. In many monasteries it is the custom to begin "The Great Silence," an act by which the entire community, including guests, observes silence until the morning as a discipline to still the body, mind and spirit.