

*Liturgical Notes:*

Held on the Third Thursday of the month at 6:30 o'clock, this service follows *An Order of Worship for the Evening* as found in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Open to people of all ages, the service is led by students, by Mr. David Hirsch, the Director of Student Ministries at Saint Francis, by Mr. Craig Windham, lay volunteer, the Rev. Phillip C. Ellsworth, Jr. assisting. The people are seated in the chancel, in the area of the acolyte and choir lofts.

Upcoming Third Thursday Evening Worship  
*March 18th, April 15th, May 20th*

SAINT FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
10033 River Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854

Sunday Services in the Church at 8:00, 9:00, and 11:15  
Student Ministry Supper & Bible Study in the Glenolden Street Youth House  
Junior High: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:30  
Senior High: Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:30

*For more information about Saint Francis Episcopal Church, see us on the web  
at [stfrancispotomac.org](http://stfrancispotomac.org), or call the church office at 301.365-2055.*

## SAINT FRANCIS STUDENT MINISTRIES

*Pray Hard. Play Hard.*

An Order of Worship for the Evening

*The church is quiet and dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.  
All stand, and the Officiant appointed greets the people with these words.*

Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*In Lent and on other penitential occasions*

*Officiant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People* His mercy endures for ever.

*One of the following, or some other Short Lesson of Scripture appropriate to the occasion  
or to the season, may then be read*

Jesus said, "For a brief time still, the light is among you. Walk by the light you have so darkness doesn't destroy you. If you walk in darkness, you don't know where you're going. As you have the light, believe in the light. Then the light will be within you, and shining through your lives. You'll be children of light."  
John 12: 35 - 36

This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: God is light, pure light; there's not a trace of darkness in him. If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth — we're not living what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. 1 John 1: 5 - 7

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5: 14 - 16

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus’ sake. For the same God who said, “Out of darkness let light shine,” has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 4: 5 - 6

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. Psalm 139: 10 - 11

*The Officiant then says the Prayer for Light, using any one of the following for some other suitable prayer, first saying:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Lent and other times of penitence*

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Easter Season*

Eternal God, who led your ancient people into freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we who walk in the light of

your presence may rejoice in the liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The candles at the Altar are now lighted, as are other candles and lamps as convenient. During the candle-lighting, the people sing.\** “Light of the World”

*The people sing a song of praise.* “God of Wonders”

*A passage of Scripture is read and taught.* Matthew 6: 5 –23; 10: 27 – 33

*Prayers are said by the people, the person appointed concluding them by leading the people in the Lord’s Prayer.*

*A song of praise is sung.* “In The Secret”

*On feasts or other days of special significance, the Collect of the Day, or one proper to the season, may precede the Blessing. On other days, either of the following, or one of the Collects from Evening Prayer or from Compline, may be so used.*

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. Amen.

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.

*The people sing a Blessing.* “Jude 24 - 25”

*A dismissal may be used*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*The People respond* Thanks be to God.

*In Easter Season*

*The People respond* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*The people depart. The persons appointed extinguish the candles.*

*\*Song lyrics are provided in the insert to this leaflet.*