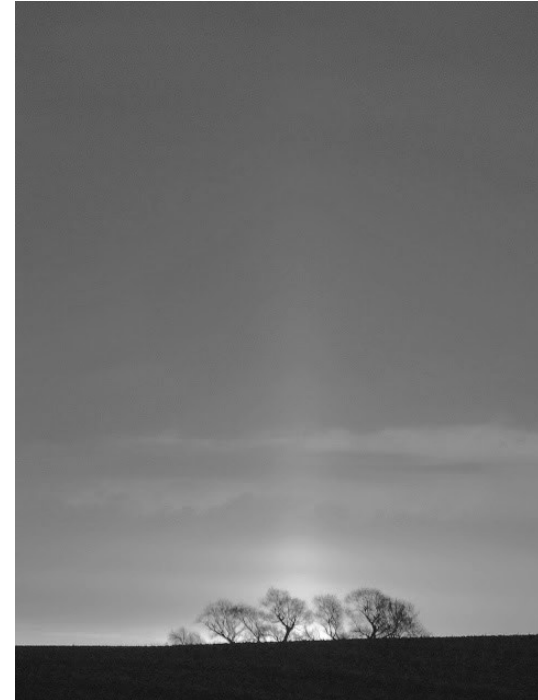


Vespers

a service of Evening Prayer at Covenant CRC



Vespers, also known as Evening Prayer or Evensong, is one of the fixed times of prayer in Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions, as well as others around the world. The word *Vespers* comes from the Latin word for evening, and so these prayers are often prayed at sunset.

During Eastertide at Covenant, as dusk begins to fall, we will join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise, and intercession to the God who “from the darkness of the tomb drew forth the light of the world, who led us through the waters of death, and made us children of light singing Alleluias and dancing to the music of new life.” (from *The Book of Common Worship*)

Prayers and liturgies are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer* and the *The Book of Common Worship* and used with permission. Photo credit: Jim Schaap, used with permission.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Amos 5:8

LEADER Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name.

Silence

Greeting

Philippians 1:2

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;

PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**

LEADER It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

PEOPLE **to sing your praise, O Most High;**

LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Collect

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.

Silence

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks again for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Song

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

LUYH 903

*Benediction

Romans 15:13

LEADER May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

*Song

"Abide with Me"

LUYH 466:1,3,5

*Pass the Peace

*Song

"You Are the Vine"

words and music written by Danny Daniels,
© 1985 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in you.
You are the vine, we are the branches.
Keep us abiding in you.

(Men lead, women echo)

And we'll go in your love.
And we'll go in your name.
That the world will surely know
that you have power to heal and to save.

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, in your mercy,
PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and glory forever. Amen.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;
PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**
LEADER Let us pray.

*Song

"Father, We Love You"

words and music written by Donna Adkins,
© 1976, 1981 Maranatha! Music

Father, we love you, we worship, we adore you,
glorify your name in all the earth,
glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you...

Spirit, we love you...

Prayer of Confession

LEADER Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,
PEOPLE **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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Assurance

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all
your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen
you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep you in eternal life.
PEOPLE **Amen.**

Song of Worship

“My Worth Is Not in What I Own”

words and music written by Keith & Kristyn Getty, Graham Kendrick,
© 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Song

My worth is not in what I own;
not in the strength of flesh and bone,
but in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name;
in win or lose, in pride or shame,
but in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus:

*I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure,
wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

As summer flow'rs we fade and die;
fame, youth, and beauty hurry by,
but life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom's fleeting light,
but I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. (to chorus)

Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross. (to chorus)

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:

PEOPLE **as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 113

1 Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.

**2 Let the name of the Lord be praised,
both now and forevermore.**

3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**4 The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.**

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

6 who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

**7 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;**

8 he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

9 He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Praise the Lord.

Song

“Magnify the Lord”

Words: from the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-49, para. Bert Polman, Music: Jacques Berthier
© 1984 GIA Publications

Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord,
magnify the Lord who is my Savior and my God!
Magnify the Lord, magnify the Lord,
magnify the Lord who is my Savior.

The Lessons

Scripture

1 John 4:7-21

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: You Are the Vine, We Are the Branches