

# 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.

# Ordinary Time

## June 6, 2021

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER O Lord, let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*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 Jesus Christ is the Light of the world

PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**

LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**

LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In the beginning you separated light from darkness  
and placed all your works in our hands.  
You have given us the light of day  
that we might see your wonders  
in all we say and do;  
you give us the gentle darkness of the night  
that we might rest from our burdens

### \*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

*"We Receive Your Blessing"*

*LUYH 947*

### \*Pass the Peace

## 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.

## 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*

## \*Song

*"Lord, I Need You"*

words and music written by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher  
© 2011 sixsteps Music, Sweater Weather Music, Thankyou Music, Valley Of Songs Music, worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.  
Every hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
oh God, how I need you.

and be refreshed in body and spirit.  
Break through the darkness of our sins  
with the splendor of your mercy and love.  
Send your light to dispel our fears and anxieties  
and fill us with hope and joy.  
Glory, praise, and honor are yours, O God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. Amen.

## \*Song

*"Christ, Be Our Light"*

*LUYH 908:1,2*

## Prayer of Confession

LEADER Confident of God's love, let us confess our sins.

*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 Deliverance

### “No Longer Slaves”

words and music written by Brian Johnson, Joel Case, Jonathan David Helser  
© 2014 Bethel Music Publishing

You unravel me with a melody.  
You surround me with a song  
of deliverance from my enemies till all my fears are gone.

#### Chorus:

*I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.  
I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.*

From my mother's womb You have chosen me;  
Love has called my name.  
I've been born again into Your family;  
Your blood flows through my veins.

You split the sea so I could walk right through it.  
My fears were drowned in perfect love.  
You rescued me so I could stand and sing:  
I am a child of God.

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 138*

1 I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;  
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.  
2 **I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and will praise your name  
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,**  
for you have so exalted your solemn decree  
that it surpasses your fame.  
3 **When I called, you answered me;  
you greatly emboldened me.**

4 May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,  
when they hear what you have decreed.  
5 **May they sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for the glory of the Lord is great.**  
6 Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;  
though lofty, he sees them from afar.  
7 **Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life.  
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;  
with your right hand you save me.**  
8 The Lord will vindicate me;  
your love, Lord, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

LEADER All glory be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:  
PEOPLE **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
for ever. Alleluia. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### First Lesson

*II Corinthians 4:13-5:1*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel

*Mark 3:20-35*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: Divided Household; Beloved Family

### \*Song

*“Ancient Words”*

*LUYH 762*

## The Prayers

### Prayers of the People

*LUYH 381*

LEADER Let us pray to the Lord.,  
PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**