

A Vespers Reflection on John 9

What is a Vespers service, exactly?

Generally speaking, a Vespers service simply refers to any worship service that meets during the evening. While Vespers services take a wide variety of forms, they are often more contemplative and devotional in spirit. Here at Covenant, we use “Vespers” to refer to worship services that allow space for focused reflection on Scripture through meditation and music.

Covenant CRC Evening Worship

March 26, 2017, 6:00 PM

* Please stand if you are able

LUYH=Lift Up Your Hearts

OF=Our Faith

Service of Praise

Welcome

Call to Worship: Isaiah 25:6-9

LUYH 195

*Opening Song

“In Thee Is Gladness”

LUYH 344

*God Greet Us and We Greet One Another

*Prayer of Praise

LUYH 686

*Song of Invitation “I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart”

LUYH 761

The First Movement

John 9:1-12

p.1664

Jesus both confronts the assumptions of his disciples and heals a man born blind. His disciples assume that life's difficulties are a punishment of God - the same assumption made by Job's friends. Jesus challenges this assumption and promises to display who he is. The healing of this man's blindness, then, refocuses us on the identity of Jesus as God's Anointed One, the Messiah. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to work in our lives and in our world. In this time of silence, reflect on the assumptions we make about the things happening in our life and world. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus reframe these events? How might these unexpected or unwanted events in our life be used for God's glory?

Time for Silent Reflection

Song

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

LUYH 764

The Second Movement

John 9:13-34

p.1665

The amazing work of Jesus faces opposition from those who think they know better. The Pharisees are trapped in their way of thinking about the world. They cannot comprehend that the man's blindness was not somehow tied to sin. They cannot imagine that God could work through Jesus, this man who lives in a way that defies everything they thought they knew about the Law. Yet they are confronted with what should be an irrefutable fact: a man who was blind can now see. In this time of silence, reflect on the unexpected work of God. How has God worked in ways that surprised you? How do we respond when we come face to face with the work of God? Do we deny it, like the Pharisees, or do we celebrate it?

Time for Silent Reflection

Song "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

LUYH 746

The Third Movement

John 9:35-41

p.1666

Meditation "You Have Now Seen Him"

*Song "Amazing Grace"

LUYH 691:1,2,5

Service of Sending

Offering for Cornerstone Prison Church

The Cornerstone Prison Church feels called to reach out to the men at the South Dakota State Penitentiary (SDSP) and to disciple them in the Christian faith. Their vision is to share with the community at the SDSP and the surrounding area the life changing love of God through Jesus Christ. It is their mission to help the men to develop into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, both for life on the inside and hopefully on the outside of the institution.

Evening Prayer for the Church and World

*Affirmation of Faith "Righteous Before God"

LUYH 697

*Song "The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me"

LUYH 704

*Benediction

*Closing Song "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

LUYH 938