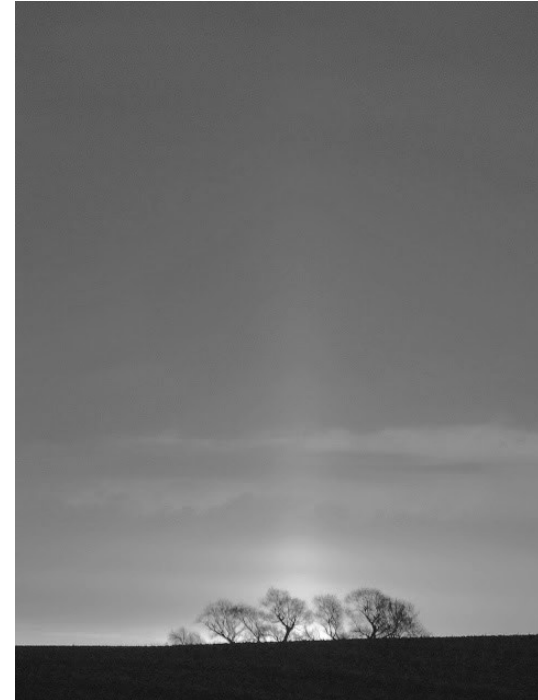


Vespers

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.

Here 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

July 4, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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 and night.**

*Song of Worship

"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"

LUYH 507

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,**

*Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

LEADER Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine, according to his power
that is at work within us, to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus throughout all genera-
tions, for ever and ever! Amen.

*Song

"Seek Ye First"

LUYH 899

*Pass the Peace

LEADER Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens,
our light grows dim:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where Jesus Christ calls us:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Lord God,
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it,
our hearts to hold it.
We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus,
who taught us to pray saying:

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

**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.**

Song

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

LUYH 624

The Assurance

LEADER For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our sins from us.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to 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 48

1 Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
2 Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.
3 **God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.**
4 When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,

5 they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.
6 Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labor.
7 You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.
8 As we have heard,
so we have seen
in the city of the Lord Almighty,
in the city of our God:
God makes her secure forever.
**9 Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.**
**10 Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.**
11 Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments.
12 Walk about Zion, go around her,
count her towers,
13 consider well her ramparts,
view her citadels,
that you may tell of them
to the next generation.
**14 For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.**

LEADER All glory be to you, God, 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 12:2-10*

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

The Gospel *Mark 6:1-13*

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

Meditation: The Town and the Twelve

*Song

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

LUYH 742:1,2,4,5

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Our Lord God,
because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,
we hold to his Word and share his plea:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where nations budget for war,
while Christ says, "Put up your sword":
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where countries waste food and covet fashion,
while Christ says, "I was hungry... I was thirsty...":
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where powerful governments
claim their policies are heaven blessed,
while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where Christians seek the kingdom
in the shape of their own church,
as if Christ had come to build
and not to break barriers:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where women who speak up for their dignity
are treated with scorn or contempt:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where men try hard to be tough,
because they are afraid to be tender:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**
LEADER Where we, obsessed with being adults,
forget to become like children:
PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**