

## \*Benediction

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

LEADER      Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

## \*Song

*"We Will Feast"*

Words & Music by Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore

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We will not be burned by the fire,  
he is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood,  
upheld, protected, gathered up.

*Chorus:*

*We will feast in the house of Zion.*

*We will sing with our hearts restored.*

*He has done great things, we will say together.*

*We will feast and weep no more.*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,  
my soul, be not afraid.  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength. *(to chorus)*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
you are the faithful one.  
And from the garden to the grave,  
bind us together, bring shalom. *(to chorus)*

## \*Pass the Peace

# 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

## August 1, 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.**

### \*Song of Worship

*"It Is Good to Sing Your Praises"*

*LUYH 513*

### Prayer of Confession

LEADER Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence*

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*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
**we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.**  
**We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**  
**And, we pray, give us such an awareness  
of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts  
we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen**  
**Amen.**

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
 And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
 without money, without strife.  
 Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
 Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:  
 bring the children without might.  
 Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

## The Prayers

### Prayers of the People

*LUYH 385*

LEADER I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
 PEOPLE **turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.**  
 LEADER Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
 PEOPLE **hide me in the shadow of your wings.**  
 LEADER I will see your face,  
 PEOPLE **and when I awake I will be satisfied.**

### *Silence*

LEADER O God our Creator, by whose mercy and might the  
 world turns safely into darkness and returns again  
 to light; we give into your hands our unfinished  
 tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled  
 hopes. We know that only those things which you  
 bless will prosper. To your great love and  
 protection we commit each other and all for whom  
 we have prayed. You alone are our sure defender,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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**

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

### *"His Mercy Is More"*

Words & Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell  
 © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
 Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
 Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
 our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
 What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
 He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
 Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

*Chorus:*  
*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.*  
*Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn.*  
*Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
 His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.  
 We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
 Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more. *(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.**

## Song

*"Speak, O Lord"* LUYH 755:1

## The Psalm

*Psalm 78:18-29*

18 They willfully put God to the test  
 by demanding the food they craved.  
**19 They spoke against God;  
 they said, "Can God really  
 spread a table in the wilderness?  
 20 True, he struck the rock,  
 and water gushed out,  
 streams flowed abundantly,  
 but can he also give us bread?  
 Can he supply meat for his people?"**  
 21 When the Lord heard them, he was furious;  
 his fire broke out against Jacob,  
 and his wrath rose against Israel,  
 22 for they did not believe in God  
 or trust in his deliverance.  
**23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above  
 and opened the doors of the heavens;  
 24 he rained down manna for the people to eat,  
 he gave them the grain of heaven.**  
 25 Human beings ate the bread of angels;  
 he sent them all the food they could eat.  
 26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens  
 and by his power made the south wind blow.

27 He rained meat down on them like dust,  
 birds like sand on the seashore.  
 28 He made them come down inside their camp,  
 all around their tents.

**29 They ate till they were gorged—  
 he had given them what they craved.**

LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
 PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

## The Lessons

First Lesson *Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15*

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

Second Lesson *Ephesians 4:1-16*

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

The Gospel *John 6:24-35*

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

## Meditation

### \*Song

*"Come to the Water"*

Words & Music by John Foley, based on Isaiah 55:1-2, Matthew 11:28-30  
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O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
 And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:  
 without money, without price.  
 Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?