

## \*Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

LEADER The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

PEOPLE **Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Song

*"Give Me Jesus"*

*LUYH 423*

## \*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: Jo Alberda, used with permission.

# Ordinary Time

## September 12, 2021

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER May our prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of our hands be like 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 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

*"Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down"*

*LUYH 510*

### Prayer of Confession

LEADER Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us confess  
our sins to God.

*Silence*

LEADER Most merciful God,

PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you**

**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

*"Away in a Manger"*

*LUYH 86:3*

LEADER Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,

PEOPLE **that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep rest in his peace.**

LEADER May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us,  
this night and forevermore.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

*James 3:1-12*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: The Danger and Creative Power of Fire

### \*Song

#### *"Instruments of Your Peace"*

Words & Music by Kirk and Deby Dearman

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#### *Chorus:*

*Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred let Your love increase.  
Lord make us instruments of Your peace.  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease  
when we are Your instruments of peace.*

Where there is hatred, we will sow His love.  
Where there is injury, we will never judge.  
Where there is striving, we will speak His peace.  
To the people crying for release  
we will be His instruments of peace. *(to chorus)*

Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight.  
Where there is darkness, we will shine His light.  
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief.  
To the millions crying for release  
we will be His instruments of peace. *(to chorus)*

## The Prayers

### Prayers of the People

LEADER Let us pray to the Lord;

PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**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

#### *"The Lord's My Shepherd"*

Words & Music by Stuart Townend

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The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.

#### *Chorus:*

*And I will trust in You alone.  
And I will trust in You alone,  
for your endless mercy follows me,  
your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights. *(to chorus)*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know. *(to chorus)*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER 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.

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 19*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.**
- 3 They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.
- 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**
- 6 It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;

nothing is deprived of its warmth.  
**7 The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.**  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

**8 The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.**  
The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

**9 The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.**  
The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.

**10 They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;**  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.

**11 By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.**

12 But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.

**13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.**  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.

**14 May these words of my mouth  
and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

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 Lessons

The Gospel

*Mark 8:27-38*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**