

# 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

## October 3, 2021

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture *Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message)*

LEADER Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

*Silence*

### Song

*"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"* *LUYH 627:1,3,4*

### 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

*"Jesus Is Our King"* *LUYH 602:1,2*

### \*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

*"Come, All You Servants of the Lord"* *LUYH 924*

### \*Pass the Peace

## The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **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*

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.**

## 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  
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

*"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

Words & Music by Stuart Townend

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How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure  
that He should give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss.  
The Father turns His face away  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life.  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:  
no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

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 26*

1 Vindicate me, Lord,  
for I have led a blameless life;  
I have trusted in the Lord  
and have not faltered.  
2 **Test me, Lord, and try me,  
examine my heart and my mind;**  
3 for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love  
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness  
4 **I do not sit with the deceitful,  
nor do I associate with hypocrites.**  
5 I abhor the assembly of evildoers  
and refuse to sit with the wicked.  
6 **I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go about your altar, Lord,**

7 **proclaiming aloud your praise  
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.**  
8 Lord, I love the house where you live,  
the place where your glory dwells.  
9 **Do not take away my soul along with sinners,  
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,**  
10 **in whose hands are wicked schemes,  
whose right hands are full of bribes.**  
11 I lead a blameless life;  
deliver me and be merciful to me.  
12 **My feet stand on level ground;  
in the great congregation I will praise the Lord.**

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 10:2-16*

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

The Epistle *Hebrews 1:1-2:4*

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

Meditation: Angels, Attention, and Inheritance

## \*Song

*"Across the Lands"* *LUYH 775*

## The Prayers

Prayers of the People  
LEADER We pray to you, O God;  
PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**