

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

***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**

"God Be in My Head" *LUYH 858*

***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*)

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Ordinary Time

October 17, 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

"Come Away from Rush and Hurry" *LUYH 527*

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 Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**
LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**
LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness
PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

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

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.**

The Psalm

Psalm 91:9-16

9 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
10 no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
**11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;**
12 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
**13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.**
14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name."
**15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.**
16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Song

"Glory Be to the Father" *LUYH 961*

The Lessons

The Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 53:4-12*

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

The Epistle *Hebrews 5:1-10*

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

Meditation: Theology as Prayer

*Song

"Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended" *LUYH 172*

*Song

"My Heart Is Firmly Fixed" *LUYH 734:1-4*

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.**

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.**