

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.**

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.**

*Song

"Beautiful Savior"

LUYH 17:4

*Sharing the Peace

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

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.

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 9, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 19:1-4

LEADER The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Silence

*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.**

*Evening Hymn

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" *LUYH 104*

Prayer of Confession

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

Silence

Song

"Arise, Your Light Is Come" *LUYH 102*

The Second Lesson *Ephesians 3:1-12*

Song

"God Moves in a Mysterious Way" *LUYH 25:1-4*

The Third Lesson *Matthew 2:1-12*

*Song

"What Child Is This" *LUYH 95*

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER O God of light, where ignorance, self-love, and insensitivity have fractured life in community,

PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of love.**

LEADER Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,

PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of freedom.**

LEADER Where hunger and poverty, illness and death have made life an unbearable burden,

PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of grace.**

LEADER Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and war have challenged your goodness,

PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of peace.**

LEADER Eternal God, remove the blindness of the nations and peoples so that they may walk in the light of love; remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples so that they may drink from the fountains of your goodness. Give us your light, O God, that we may carry it into the world. We ask all this through our Savior Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying:

2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

**3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

Sing refrain

5 May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Sing refrain

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

**11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**

12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

Sing refrain

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

LEADER He comes in splendor, the King who is our peace;

PEOPLE **he is ruler over all the kings of the earth.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

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 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.

Song

"What Can I Give Him"

Words: Christina G. Rosetti, Music: Gustav Holst
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What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what can I give him—give him my heart.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

LEADER He comes in splendor, the King who is our peace;

PEOPLE **he is ruler over all the kings of the earth.**

The Psalm

Psalm 72

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

LUYH 109

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.