

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 16, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture & Song

Psalm 19:1-4

"The Heavens Are Telling"

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken
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LEADER The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Chorus:

The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The earth declares the work of his hands.
The law of the Lord, more desired than gold,
sweeter than honey, reviving the soul.

LEADER Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

Sing chorus

LEADER 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.

Sing chorus

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.**

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

"Peace Before Us"

LUYH 923:1,3,4

*Sharing the Peace

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.

LEADER We pray for all who provide food and water...

Sing stanza 4

LEADER We pray for all who provide shelter...

Sing stanza 5

LEADER Lord Jesus Christ, sun of righteousness,
in a world that so often seems cold and heartless,
your grace breaks in with warmth and light.
How grateful we are for the privilege of your call
to us to reflect this warmth and light
as mirrors of your grace.
May we reflect this light so that many will see it
and bring praise to you, the true light of the world.
We pray this in your name, Jesus,
who taught us to pray saying:

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.

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

"O God, You Are My God Alone"

LUYH 367

Prayer of Confession

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 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

"Come, My Soul, and Bless the Lord"

Words & Music:: Fred & Ruth Coleman
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Come, my soul, and bless the Lord,
all within me bless his name!

Come, my soul, and bless the Lord;
and forget not all his grace:
all your sins the Lord forgives,
all your sicknesses he heals.
He redeems you from the pit;
his compassion he reveals.

For the Lord is slow to wrath,
full of mercy, full of grace.
He abounds in steadfast love,
will not chide for endless days.
God will not retain his wrath,
he will not repay our sins;
he will never deal with us
as our wickedness demands.

As the heav'ns are high above
all the earth which God has made,
so to those who fear the LORD
is his lovingkindness great.
Far as east is from the west,
he removes so far from us,
in his great, abounding love,
all our guilt and wickedness.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

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

LEADER Glory be to the Father, and the to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 36:5-10

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

**6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.**

You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**8 They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.**

9 For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

**10 Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

LEADER Glory be to the Father, and the to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

John 2:1-11

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 62:1-5

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: The Struggle and the Name

*Song

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LUYH 477:1,2,4

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

"Christ, Be Our Light"

LUYH 908

LEADER Light of the world...

Sing stanzas 1&2

LEADER We pray for all peacemakers...

Sing stanza 3