

# 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.

# Third Sunday after the Epiphany

## January 23, 2022

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 96:9*

LEADER Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

*Silence*

### Song

*"Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart"*

*LUYH 595*

### \*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

*"Gather Us In"*

*LUYH 529:1,2*

### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

LEADER Most merciful God,

PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,**

*Chorus:*

*And to Him be praise for His glorious reign,  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heaven;  
we declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.*

May this peace which passes understanding,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,  
and this fellowship of His communion  
make us one in spirit and in heart. *(to chorus)*

### \*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.*

**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

*"Benediction (May the Peace of God)"*

Words & Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend  
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May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,  
and the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
and the fellowship of God the Spirit  
keep our hearts and minds within His love.

**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

*Psalm 103:11-12*

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.

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 19*

*"The Heavens Are Telling"*

Words & Music: Sandra McCracken  
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- 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.**

*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.

- 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.**

*Sing chorus*

- 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.**

*Sing chorus*

- 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 *Luke 4:14-21*

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

The Second Lesson *Nehemiah 8:1-12*

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

## Meditation: Torah as Good News

### \*Song

*"Ancient Words"* *LUYH 762*

## The Prayers

### Prayers of the People & Song: *"Prayers of the People"*

Words and music: John Arndt, David Gungor, Ian Cron, Ben Kilgore, Evan Wickham  
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You hear us calling; you hear us calling, Abba Father.  
You hear us calling; you hear us calling, Abba Father.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy.

### The Lord's Prayer

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