

**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

Song

"Stay with Me" *LUYH 159*

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.**

*Parting Song

"Bless the Lord, My Soul" *LUYH 836*

*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.

Lenten Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

This service of evening prayer will use liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer* that lead us to pray and ponder through psalms, silence, songs, and meditation, and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 16:7-8

LEADER I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Silence

*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;
PEOPLE **who made 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.**

*Song

"I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalm 62)"

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough
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For God alone I wait in silence.
My soul is still before the Lord.
He is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress strong; I trust in Him.

Chorus:

*I'll not be shaken, I'll not be shaken,
for all my hope is in his love.*

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.

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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

Meditation: Homecoming

*Song of Response

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

LUYH 615:1,3

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

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 he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

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

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

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

The Psalm

Psalm 77:11-15

11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

**12 I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”**

13 Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

**14 You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.**

15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.**

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

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

Testimony: Anna Westfall

*Song

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Words and music: 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.

*From God alone comes my salvation;
I'll wait and trust his steadfast love.*

Put not your hope in gain or riches;
seek not your rest in empty wealth.
The rich are weak, the poor are mighty
who turn to God alone for help. *(to chorus)*

Pour out your heart to God our refuge
and trust in him to hear you cry.
No other hope will never fail you,
no other love will not run dry. *(to chorus)*

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.**

Song

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

LUYH 168

The Assurance

II Corinthians 5:17-19

LEADER Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation
has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this
is from God, who reconciled us to himself through
Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
that God was reconciling the world to himself in
Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.