

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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 74:15-16

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Silence

*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.**

*Song

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

LUYH 667

Prayer of Confession

Silence

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Jesus Christ, lover of all,

PEOPLE **bring healing, bring peace.**

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 the glory forever. Amen.**

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.**

*Parting Song

"When Peace Like a River"

LUYH 451:1,2,4

*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.

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,
6 **who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?**
7 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
8 **he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.**
9 He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.
Praise the Lord.

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. Alleluia. Amen.**

Song

"Bless the Lord, O Saints and Servants" LUYH 399

The Epistle Reading

I Timothy 2:1-7

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Healing Beyond Healing

*Song of Response

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" LUYH 706

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

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" LUYH 737:1,3,4

The Assurance

II Corinthians 5:17

LEADER Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new
has come. Thanks be to God.

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. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 113

1 Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you his servants;
praise the name of the Lord.

2 **Let the name of the Lord be praised,
both now and forevermore.**

3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

4 **The Lord is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.**