

Your labor is not unknown
though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home,
but your labor is not unknown. *(to chorus)*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit;
the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
for all that is old will at last be made new:
the vineyards you plant will bear fruit. *(to chorus)*

The houses you labored to build
will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed,
and all that is broken be healed. *(to chorus)*

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 God First Brought Us Back" LUYH 55

*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.

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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

John 8:12

LEADER Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Silence

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

LEADER Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Opening Sentences at the Entrance of the Light

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.**

LEADER Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

LEADER Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy. You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you. You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ. For these gifts of your love we thank you, and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise.

Song

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

LUYH 538:1

The Institution

The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Passing the Elements

"Your Labor Is Not in Vain"

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Aaron Keyes
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Your labor is not in vain
though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained.
Your planting and reaping are never the same,
your labor is not in vain.

Chorus:

For I am with you, I am with you.

I am with you, I am with you

for I have called you, called you by name.

Your labor is not in vain.

14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

15 **He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.**

16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

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

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

Words: *The Book of Common Prayer*; Music: Jack Noble White
© 1977 The H.W. Gray Company, admin. Warner Bros. Publications U.S., Inc.

*Chorus:
Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.*

The Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 32:1-5

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: From Inside to Outside

*Song of Invitation

"Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord"

LUYH 844:1,2,4

*Song

"Come Light Our Hearts"

Words and music: Sandra McCracken
© 2014 Drink Your Tea, [ASCAP], Admin by Music Services

Chorus:

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
your radiance shines on all who look to you in the dark.
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts. *(to chorus)*

O Joy above all other loves,
in you we find more than enough.
We come as we are, O heal and restore.
Come light our hearts. *(to chorus)*

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

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 **I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."**
- 3 Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 **He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**
- 5 You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.**