

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.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 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.**

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.

*Parting Song

"Now Thank We All Our God"

LUYH 543

*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.

PEOPLE **With your Holy Spirit, point us to new life in Christ.**

LEADER You called a people to be your own and to be a light to the world. Throughout the world your church suffers. Some are mocked for professing your name. Some are killed for praying to you. Some pursue personal preferences rather than loving unity. God, our refuge, shield from harm those who love you, surround us with your mercy, and gird your church with the fruit of your Spirit.

PEOPLE **With your Holy Spirit, empower your church to witness to your glory.**

LEADER Through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

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.**

*Song

"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"

LUYH 507

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 In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God.
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Song

"And Can It Be"

LUYH 695:1-3

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 84

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!
- 2 **My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.**
- 3 Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
- 4 **Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.**
- 5 **Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.**
- 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.
- 8 **Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.**
- 9 Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.
- 10 **Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
- 12 **Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.**

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 Epistle Reading

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

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

The Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

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

The Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:23-32

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

Meditation: Pentecost Every Sunday

*Song of Response

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

LUYH 747

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Gracious God, your Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at creation. You made a world that was breathtaking and life-giving. Sin invaded this world and shattered it. Pollution, disease, and natural disasters plague our world. God, our provider, heal the sick, give peace to the dying, shelter the homeless, and protect the vulnerable.

PEOPLE **With your Holy Spirit, renew your creation.**

LEADER When you formed humanity, you breathed your spirit into us. You walked in the garden. You wanted fellowship with us. Our sin separated us from you, so we live in a world of pain and hurt. Some are hungry. Some are lonely. Some are empty. Almighty God, giver of strength, feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, support the orphans, uplift the depressed, and free the downtrodden.