

***Parting Song**

*"When the King Shall Come Again" LUYH 475
(to the tune of "Good King Wenceslas")*

***Sharing the Peace**

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Isaiah 40:3

LEADER A voice cries: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Silence

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Opening Sentences

Luke 1:46-50

LEADER Our souls magnify the Lord!

PEOPLE **Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

LEADER The mighty one has done great things for us!

PEOPLE **Holy is God's name.**

LEADER Let us worship God.

PEOPLE **For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

*Song

"My Spirit Glorifies the Lord"

LUYH 383:1,2,4,5

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,

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

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Holy Fire

*Song of Response

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LUYH 70:1,2,5

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Maranatha.

PEOPLE **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

*Benediction

LEADER The peace of God, which passes understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

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 72

- 1 Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- 2 **May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.**
- 3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- 4 **May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.**
- 5 May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- 6 **May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.**
- 7 In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.
**Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.**
- 19 **Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.**

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

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" *LUYH 109:1,2,4*

The Epistle Reading

Romans 15:4-13

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

**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

Isaiah 40:1-2

LEADER Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

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

O Gracious Light

PEOPLE **O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father
in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times
to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Song

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LUYH 88