

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.**

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

*"How Bright Appears the Morning Star"* LUYH 101

### \*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.

# First Sunday after the Epiphany

## January 8, 2023

### Words of Welcome

LEADER Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Opening Scripture

*II Corinthians 4:5-6*

LEADER For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

*Silence*

### Collect for Epiphany

LEADER God of mystery, by the leading of a star, you revealed your only Son to the gentiles, lead us, who have already come to know you by faith, all the way to the contemplation of the beauty of your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### \*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.**

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapp'd His beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high, *(to chorus)*

The earliest moon of winter time is not so round and fair.  
As with the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *(to chorus)*

### Reflection

### Song

*"Huron Carol"*

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
the Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

*Chorus:*

*"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria."*

### Song

*"Ere zij God/Glory to God"*

*LUYH 84*

### Prayer

### The Canticle

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

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

A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
here came the Wise Men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
in all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
his law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
and in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

## Reflection

## Song

### *"Huron Carol"*

Text: (Huron) St. Jean de Brebeuf; (English) Jesse E. Middleton; Music: French folk song

'Twas in the moon of winter-time  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunter heard the hymn:

#### *Chorus:*

*"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria."*

## \*Song

### *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

LUYH 76:1,2

## The Gospel Reading

Matthew 2

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Song

### *"Blest Are the Innocents"*

LUYH 108

## Song

### *"Coventry Carol"*

Text: Robert Croo; Music: English Melody

#### *Chorus:*

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully, lullay.  
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day.  
This poor youngling for whom we sing,  
"By, by, lully, lullay"?

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day.  
His men of might, in his own sight,  
all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee  
and ever mourn and may  
for thy parting neither say nor sing, "By, by, lully, lullay."

## Reflection

## Song

### *"O Holy Night"*

Text: Placide Cappeau; Translator: John S. Dwight Music: Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.