

# 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 after the Epiphany

## January 15, 2023

### Words of Welcome

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

### Opening Scripture

*John 1:9,12*

LEADER The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

*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.**

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

*"Like a River Glorious"*

*LUYH 699*

### \*Sharing the Peace

*Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.*

## Song

*"Arise, Your Light Is Come"*

*LUYH 102*

## The Psalm

*Psalm 40*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: Past Praise; Present Problems

## Song

*"You Are Mine"*

*LUYH 430*

## The Prayers

### Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

### 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*

## \*Song

*"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

*LUYH 105*

## 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

*1 Timothy 1:15, 1 Peter 2:24*

LEADER The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

## Song

*"I Waited Patiently for God"*

*LUYH 670*

## The Epistle Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 49:1-7*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**