

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.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2023

Words of Welcome

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

Greeting

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

*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;
PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**
LEADER It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
PEOPLE **to sing your praise, O Most High;**
LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Song

"O Give the Lord Wholehearted Praise" LUYH 502:1,2,3,6

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,
PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**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

"Seek Ye First" LUYH 899

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

"God of Mercy, God of Grace" LUYH 934:1,3

*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.

with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
 6 On my bed I remember you;
 I think of you through the watches of the night.
 7 **Because you are my help,**
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
 8 **I cling to you;**
your right hand upholds me.

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

"O God, You Are My God Alone" LUYH 367

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 112

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Becoming Like What We Worship

*Song

"Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path" LUYH 759:1,2,4

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

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.

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 This 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.

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 63:1-8

1 You, God, are my God,
 earnestly I seek you;
 I thirst for you,
 my whole being longs for you,
 in a dry and parched land
 where there is no water.
 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary
 and beheld your power and your glory.
 3 **Because your love is better than life,**
my lips will glorify you.
 4 **I will praise you as long as I live,**
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
 5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;