

# 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.

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

## March 19, 2023

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Silence*

### \*Greeting

LEADER Grace 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.**

### \*Song

*"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling"*

*LUYH 351:1-3*

### 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,**

### 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. 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.**  
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

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

*LUYH 167*

### \*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.*

they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

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. Amen.**

### The Gospel Reading

*John 9:1-12*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Song

*"Amazing Grace"*

*LUYH 691:1,2*

### The Gospel Reading

*John 9:13-34*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Song

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

*LUYH 709:1,3*

### The Gospel Reading

*John 9:35-41*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Open Our Eyes

### \*Song

*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

*LUYH 168*

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

*I Timothy 1:15, I 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.

### Song

*"Man of Sorrows—What a Name"*

*LUYH 170:1-4*

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. Amen.**

### The Psalm

*Psalm 23*

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
3 he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,