

Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

The Vesper Sparrow is named after its tendency to sing most gloriously during the vesper (evening) hours after most other species have quieted for the night. As we pray and ponder and praise, may we join the creation in bringing glory to our Creator as we close out the day.

Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 104:33-35

LEADER I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Silence

Song

"Bless the Lord, My Soul" LUYH 836

*Greeting

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

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

"God Is Here" LUYH 246:1-4

Prayer of Confession

Silence

our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect

PEOPLE **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 surpasses all understanding, guard 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. Amen.

*Parting Song

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LUYH 946:1,3

Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.

Preparing the Bread and Cup

LEADER The bread that we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

PEOPLE **We who are many are one body,
for we all share the same loaf.**

LEADER The cup for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

PEOPLE **The cup that we drink
is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

Passing the Elements

"O Breath of God (The Risen Christ)"

Words and music: Keith Getty, Phil Madeira
© 2003 Thankyou Music, Phil Madeira Music

O Breath of God, come fill this place;
revive our hearts to know Your grace
and from our slumber make us rise,
that we may know the risen Christ.

O Word of God, so clear and true,
renew our minds to trust in You;
and give to us the Bread of Life,
that we may know the risen Christ.

O Love of God, so unrestrained,
refresh our souls in Jesus' name.
Let us reflect Your sacrifice,
that we may know the risen Christ.

May God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit make us one;
in holiness let us unite,
that we may know the risen Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Loving God, you have put gladness in our hearts;
you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In
giving all, you have not withheld from us your own
dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you,

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.**

Song of Assurance

"I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace" LUYH 690:1-3

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

Psalms 104:24-35

24 How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

25 There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.

26 **There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.**

27 All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.

28 **When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.**

29 When you hide your face,
 they are terrified;
 when you take away their breath,
 they die and return to the dust.

30 **When you send your Spirit,
 they are created,
 and you renew the face of the ground.**

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
 may the Lord rejoice in his works—

32 **he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains, and they smoke.**

33 I will sing to the Lord all my life;
 I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

34 **May my meditation be pleasing to him,
 as I rejoice in the Lord.**

35 But may sinners vanish from the earth
 and the wicked be no more.
Praise the Lord, my soul. Praise the Lord.

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 Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:23-32

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Song

"Fear Not, Rejoice and Be Glad"

LUYH 240

The Epistle Reading

I Corinthians 12:1-14

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: A Charismatic Congregation

*Song

"O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath"

LUYH 900:1,3,4,6

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you,
 PEOPLE **and also with you.**

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Institution

The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.
 Dying, he destroyed our death.
 Rising, he restored our life.
 Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Prayer of Consecration

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.**