

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.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Silence

Song

"Many and Great"

LUYH 27

*Greeting

LEADER Grace to you 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 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.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer God. You
destroyed the bonds of death and from the darkness
of the tomb drew forth the light of the world. You
led us through the waters of death, and made us
children of light singing alleluias and dancing to the
music of new life. Pour out your Spirit upon us that
dreams and visions bring us ever closer to the

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

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.**

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

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" *LUYH 928:1,2,4*

*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.

The Psalm

Psalm 13

- 1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
- 4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
- 5 But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to 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.**

The Old Testament Reading

Ruth 2:1-12

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:40-42

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: The Way of Welcome

*Song of Response

"All Are Welcome"

LUYH 269:1,2,4

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Through him and in the Holy Spirit all glory be to you, almighty God, this night and forever and ever.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*Song

"Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

LUYH 389

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 for give us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Assurance

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Song

"How Great Is the Love of the Father"

LUYH 683

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.**