

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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 16:7-8

LEADER I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Silence

*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 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 you light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

*Song

"God of Mercy, God of Grace"

LUYH 934

Prayer of Confession

Silence

Song

"May the Lord God Hear You Pray"

LUYH 894

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 Be with You Till We Meet Again"

LUYH 943:1-3

*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.

5 **May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

6 The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.

7 May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Song

"Glory Be to the Father"

LUYH 959

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:10-28

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Teach, Learn, and Pray

*Song of Response

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

LUYH 268:1,3,4,5

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

Collect

LEADER 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 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

"My Song is Love Unknown"

LUYH 148:1,2,6

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 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—

2 so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

3 **May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

4 **May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.**