

*Chorus:*

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;*

*O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess*

*Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore,  
the rock of Christ. *(to chorus)*

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
then sin and death will be destroyed,  
and we will feast in endless joy,  
when Christ is ours forevermore. *(to chorus)*

\*Blessing

*Philippians 4:7*

\*Parting Song

*"My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"*

*LUYH 938*

*Deacons with offering bags will be at the exits of the worship area  
to receive your gifts for World Renew.*

# 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.

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 10, 2023

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Amos 5:8*

*Silence*

### \*Song

*"Behold Our God"*

Words and music: Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge  
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Who has held the oceans in His hands?  
Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.  
All creation rises to rejoice.

Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One Who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

*Chorus:*

*Behold our God, seated on His throne.*

*Come, let us adore Him!*

*Behold our King! Nothing can compare,  
come, let us adore Him!*

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,  
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave,  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! *(to chorus)*

*Bridge:*

*Men: You will reign forever!*

*Women: Let Your glory fill the earth! (repeat)*

### \*Greeting

*Revelation 1:4-5*

### Meditation: Wisdom's Call to a Foolish World

### \*Song of Response

*"Wisdom Calls"*

*LUYH 54*

### The Prayers

Prayers of the People

*LUYH 886*

### 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

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.

### \*Affirmation of Faith:

*Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1*

*LUYH 434*

### \*Song

*"Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death"*

Words and music: Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker  
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What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.  
What holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ in which we stand.

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

*Micah 7:18-20*

## The Psalm

*Psalm 116:1-9*

- 1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 **Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.**
- 3 The cords of death entangled me,  
the anguish of the grave came over me;  
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- 4 **Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
“Lord, save me!”**
- 5 **The Lord is gracious and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.**
- 6 The Lord protects the unwary;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- 7 **Return to your rest, my soul,  
for the Lord has been good to you.**
- 8 For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,
- 9 that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

## Song

*“I Love the Lord (Psalm 116)”*

*LUYH 819*

## The New Testament Reading

*I Corinthians 1:18-31*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Old Testament Reading

*Proverbs 1:20-33*

LEADER This is the Word of the 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

*“Rejoice in All Your Works”*

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough. © 2014 Wendell Kimbrough

Every mouth that cries for food, every lung that yearns for breath,  
every eye that searches through the dark for light—  
all creation looks to you for its breath and for its food.  
From the goodness of your hand we’re satisfied.

*Chorus:*

*Oh rejoice in all your works, King of Heaven, King of Earth!  
Every creature you have made declares your praise.  
We rejoice in all you’ve made, God of all-sustaining grace!  
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain, every bird that seeks its nest,  
every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—  
all creation looks to you for its breath and for its food.  
From the goodness of your hand we’re satisfied. *(to chorus)*

May the pond’rings of my heart, and the song upon my lips,  
with the chorus of creation join in praise:  
to the God who made all things, to the Spirit who sustains,  
to the Son who over all creation reigns! *(to chorus)*

## 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**