

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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 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

"Be Still and Know" *LUYH 907*

*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

"Shine On Us"

Words and music: Deborah D. Smith & Michael W. Smith
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Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.
Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us

Meditation: Strength, Song, and Salvation

*Song of Response

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" *LUYH 42*

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

Song

"Jesus Loves Me" *LUYH 709*

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 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

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul" *LUYH 516*

*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.

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

Psalm 114

1 When Israel came out of Egypt,
Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,
2 Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.
3 **The sea looked and fled,
the Jordan turned back;**
4 **the mountains leaped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**
5 Why was it, sea, that you fled?
Why, Jordan, did you turn back?
6 Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,
you hills, like lambs?
7 **Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,**
8 **who turned the rock into a pool,
the hard rock into springs of water.**

LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit:
PEOPLE **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for
ever. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

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

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 15:1-21

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

that we may be saved, that we may have life;
to find our way in the darkest night,
let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
that we may be saved, that we may have life;
to find our way in the darkest night,
let Your grace fall on us.

Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us.
Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us.
that we may be saved, that we may have life;
to find our way in the darkest night,
let Your love come over us, let your light shine on us.

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

"This Is My Father's World"

LUYH 21