

*Parting Song

“Abide with Me”

LUYH 466:1-3

*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.

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.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 62:5-6

LEADER For God alone my soul waits in silence; for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress, I shall not be shaken.

Silence

Song

"Be Still for the Presence" LUYH 532

*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.**

*Song

"The Night Song"

Words and music: Colin Buchanan, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
© 2021 CityAlight Music, Wanaaring Road Music

In the darkness, God will keep me.
He will stay and never sleep.
In the darkness, God is brighter,
though the night is long and deep.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:12-33

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Face to Face; Good to Glorious

*Song of Response

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" LUYH 424:1,2,4

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

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.

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 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 99

1 The Lord reigns,
 let the nations tremble;
 he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
 let the earth shake.
 2 **Great is the Lord in Zion;
 he is exalted over all the nations.**
 3 **Let them praise your great and awesome name—
 he is holy.**
 4 The King is mighty, he loves justice—
 you have established equity;
 in Jacob you have done
 what is just and right.
 5 **Exalt the Lord our God
 and worship at his footstool;
 he is holy.**
 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
 Samuel was among those who called on his name;
 they called on the Lord
 and he answered them.
 7 **He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
 they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.**
 8 Lord our God,
 you answered them;
 you were to Israel a forgiving God,
 though you punished their misdeeds.
 9 **Exalt the Lord our God
 and worship at his holy mountain,
 for the Lord our God is holy.**

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.**

Chorus:
*All this day your hand has held me,
 God of Heaven, by my side.
 Thank you, Father, for Your goodness.
 You will hold me through the night.*

In the shadows, you are with me
 and you know my ev'ry fear.
 In the shadows, none can harm me
 for the mighty King is here. *(to chorus)*

So I find my rest in Jesus, he who came to rescue me.
 Jesus saved me from the darkness,
 I will rise to life with Him. *(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
 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

"Lord, I Gladly Trust"

LUYH 354