

## \*Benediction

LEADER The peace of God, which passes understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and  
love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

## \*Parting Song

*"Away in a Manger" (Alternate Tune)* LUYH 86:1,3

## \*Sharing the Peace

*Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.*

# Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

This service of evening prayer will use liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer* that lead us to pray and ponder through psalms, silence, songs, and meditation, and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer.

# First Sunday of Advent

## December 3, 2023

### Words of Welcome

#### Opening Scripture

*Isaiah 40:3*

LEADER A voice cries: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Silence*

#### \*Greeting

*Philippians 1:2*

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### \*Opening Sentences

*Luke 1:46-50*

LEADER Our souls magnify the Lord!

PEOPLE **Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

LEADER The mighty one has done great things for us!

PEOPLE **Holy is God's name.**

LEADER Let us worship God.

PEOPLE **For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

#### \*Song

*"My Soul in Stillness Waits"*

*LUYH 63:1-3*

#### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

LEADER Most merciful God,

PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

#### The Gospel Reading

*Matthew 3:1-12*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

#### The Epistle Reading

*I Corinthians 1:1-9*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

#### Meditation: Faithful Fellowship

#### \*Song of Response

*"View the Present through the Promise"*

*LUYH 470*

#### The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People: O Antiphons

LEADER Maranatha.

PEOPLE **Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### Collect

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 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 80:1-7, 17-19*

- 1 Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock.  
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,  
shine forth
- 2 before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Awaken your might;  
come and save us.
- 3 **Restore us, O God;  
make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.**
- 4 How long, Lord God Almighty,  
will your anger smolder  
against the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
- 6 You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,  
and our enemies mock us.
- 7 **Restore us, God Almighty;  
make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.**
- 17 Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
- 18 Then we will not turn away from you;  
revive us, and we will call on your name.
- 19 **Restore us, Lord God Almighty;  
make your face shine on us,  
that we may be saved.**

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.**

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

## The Assurance

*Isaiah 40:1-2*

LEADER Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

## O Gracious Light

PEOPLE **O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father  
in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times  
to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

## Song

*"Lord, You Have Lavished on Your Land"*

*LUYH 65:1-3*