

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.

Presentation of the Lord

February 4, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 24:7-10

LEADER Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Silence

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

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

"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"

LUYH 507

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

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

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 Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

LEADER The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*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.

broken bodies, hope for broken lives, light for those in the darkness of war, warmth for those in the chill of fear.

PEOPLE **Open our ears to hear good news of peace today.**

LEADER Open our eyes to see glimpses of your grace in enemy and friend.

PEOPLE **Open our lips to sing with joy.**

LEADER Open our lives to bear fruit for your reign,

PEOPLE **on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER Like Simeon, we have seen your salvation, O God, and his name is Jesus. Amen.

*Song of Response

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" LUYH 601:1,2,4

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

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

The Assurance

Malachi 3:1-4

LEADER See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. The messenger of the Lord has come in Christ. In Christ, we present offerings to the Lord in righteousness! Thanks be to God for his lavish grace!

Song

"Purify My Heart"

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Purify my heart, touch me with Your cleansing fire.
Take me to the cross; Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
kindle a love that flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart. Purify my heart.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.
 PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
 LEADER Glory 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 84

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
 2 **My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**
 3 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
 4 **Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.**
 5 **Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.**
 6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
 7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.
 8 **Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.**
 9 Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.
 10 **Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
 11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.
 12 **Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.**

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 Epistle Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

Song

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

LUYH 426:1-3

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Simeon saw your salvation, O God, in a little child—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to the people Israel.

PEOPLE **We too long to see your salvation: healing for broken bodies, hope for broken lives, light for those in the darkness of war, warmth for those in the chill of fear,**

LEADER We long to see the glory of angels, peace on earth, good news for all, harbingers of joy, glimpses of grace on earth as it is in heaven.

PEOPLE **Simeon saw your salvation, O God, in a little child—radiant light, glory streaming down, stretching across the centuries to us today.**

LEADER Our eyes can see God’s salvation too: healing for