

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 74:15,16

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

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

"Give Glory to God, All You Heavenly Creatures" LUYH 114:1,2,5

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**

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

Song

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

LUYH 903

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 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

PEOPLE **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

*Parting Song

"To God Be the Glory"

LUYH 956

*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.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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 Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: The Power of Love

*Song of Response

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" LUYH 111:1,3,4,5

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.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

**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

I John 3:16

LEADER We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life
for us-

PEOPLE **and we ought to lay down our lives for one
another.**

Song

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

LUYH 299:1-3

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 23 (KJV)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- 3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**