

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 using liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer*, may we join the creation in bringing glory to our Creator as we close out the day.

Worship Leaders: Mark Christians, Ruth Clark, Ryan Zonnefeld ♦ Organ/Piano: Will Breems
Flute: Lisa Christians

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Video: Tom Clark ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Opening Sentences and Words of Sending from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 147:2-5

LEADER The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Silence

Song

"Be Still, for the Presence"

LUYH 532:1,3

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

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

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Opening Sentences

LEADER This is the time when light fades and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued—all as God intended.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER This is the time when bodies relax, minds unwind, and tiredness comes—all as God intended.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER This is the time when others greet the morning while we meet the night, and the world continues to sing, in all the accents of creation, a love-song to its Maker.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God's name.**

The Communion

The Thanksgiving

"Bless the Lord, My Soul"

LUYH 836

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.**

Words of Sending

LEADER O Brother Jesus, we have been guests at your table; come with us wherever we go and be present in all we share.

PEOPLE **Summon out in us, whom you have fed, generosity of spirit to ensure that all the hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with food, faith, hope and love. Amen.**

*Parting Song

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

LUYH 396

*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.

*Song of Preparation

“Eat This Bread”

LUYH 818

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE **And also with you.**
LEADER Lift up your hearts.
PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**
LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**
LEADER With joy, we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came among us as the Word made flesh to show us your glory, full of grace and truth. In him we have been brought out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Amen.

The Institution

The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

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.**

*Song

“The Night Song”

Words and music: Colin Buchanan, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
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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.

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 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 1:5,7

LEADER This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.

PEOPLE **If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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

Psalms 147

- 1 Praise the Lord.
How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
- 2 **The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.**
- 3 **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**
- 4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.
- 6 The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 **Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.**
- 8 He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.
- 9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.
- 10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

- 11 the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.
- 12 **Extol the Lord, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion.**
- 13 **He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.**
- 14 **He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.**
- 15 He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.
- 16 He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.
- 17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?
- 18 He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.
- 19 **He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel.**
- 20 **He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. Praise the Lord.**

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.**

Song

"Gift of Finest Wheat"

LUYH 815:1,2,4

The Gospel Reading

John 6:1-21

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Poem: "Logos"

Mary Oliver

Silence