

*Parting Song

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

LUYH 943:1-3

*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 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.

Pastor: Rev. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Beth Vanden Berg

Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ Video: Marty Vander Plaats ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Opening Sentences from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 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

Song

"All Creatures of Our God and King" LUYH 551:1,4,6

*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.**

Meditation: Bread Comes Down and Raises Up

*Song of Response

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

LUYH 823:1,2,3,5

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.**

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 May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 **Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.**
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**
- 9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 **Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

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 Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 19:4-8

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Illumination

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

LUYH 764:1-3

The Gospel Reading

John 6:32-51

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Song

"The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended"

LUYH 387

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

Psalm 103:11-12

LEADER For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our sins from us.

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 51:1-12

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

2 **Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**