

*Parting Song

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise” LUYH 932:1-3

*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 ♦ Piano: Shannon Schreurs ♦ Reader: Bob DeSmith
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Video: Tom Clark ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Opening Sentences from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 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

"When Morning Gilds the Sky"

LUYH 372:1,3,4

*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: Heart and Tongue

*Song of Response

"Ancient Words"

LUYH 762

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.**

The Psalm

Psalm 125

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

2 **As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people
both now and forevermore.**

3 The scepter of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,
for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

4 **Lord, do good to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.**

5 But those who turn to crooked ways
the Lord will banish with the evildoers.
Peace be on Israel.

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 of Illumination

"Speak, O Lord"

LUYH 755

The Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

James 1:17-27

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm Reading

Psalm 15

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Song

"Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

LUYH 389:1,2

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.**

Song

"Trisagion"

Words and music: Fernando Ortega
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Holy God, holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One,
have mercy, have mercy on us.

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.**