

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

***Parting Song**

"Abide with Me"

LUYH 466:1,2,5

***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: Lois Vander Zee
Sound: Dennis DeJong ♦ Video: Terry Friend ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Opening Sentences from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 19:1-4a, 14

LEADER The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Silence

Song

"The Heavens Declare Your Glory" LUYH 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

Meditation: King, Cross, and Glory

*Song of Response

"Beneath the Cross"

LUYH 825

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

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

PEOPLE **Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 **Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.**
- 3 The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“Lord, save me!”
- 5 **The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.**
- 6 The Lord protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- 7 Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.
- 8 **For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,**
- 9 **that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.**

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 First Reading

Proverbs 1:20-33

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-9:1

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

sing, in all the accents of creation, a love-song to its
Maker.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God’s name.**

*Song

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

LUYH 378

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

“Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer”

LUYH 617:1-3

The Assurance

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all
your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen
you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

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.**