

love; remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples so that they may drink from the fountains of your goodness. Give us your light, O God, that we may carry it into the world. We ask all this through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.**

### \*Parting Song

*"Beautiful Savior"*

*LUYH 17:1,4*

### \*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.*

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Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries ♦ Organ/Piano: Lois Vander Zee ♦ Vocalist: Sara Ploegstra  
Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ Video: John Stevenson ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

# 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.

# Epiphany of the Lord

## January 5, 2025

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Hebrews 1:1-3*

LEADER In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

*Silence*

### Song

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* *LUYH 730:1-2*

### \*Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;  
PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
LEADER Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening  
PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**  
LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness  
PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

### \*Song

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* *LUYH 104*

### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

### Meditation on the Season of Epiphany

*From Seeking God's Face by Phil Reinders*

### The Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Song

*"Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come"* *LUYH 103:1,2,6*

### The Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 3:1-12*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.  
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer

### \*Song

*"God Moves in a Mysterious Way"* *LUYH 25:1-4*

### The Prayers

LEADER O God of light, where ignorance, self-love, and insensitivity have fractured life in community,  
PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of love.**  
LEADER Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,  
PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of freedom.**  
LEADER Where hunger and poverty, illness and death have made life an unbearable burden,  
PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of grace.**  
LEADER Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and war have challenged your goodness,  
PEOPLE **give us your light, O God of peace.**  
LEADER Eternal God, remove the blindness of the nations and peoples so that they may walk in the light of

- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.**
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.

*Sing refrain*

- 5 May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

*Sing refrain*

- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts.
- 11 May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.**
- 12 For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.

*Sing refrain*

- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.
- 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.  
**Amen and Amen.**

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.**

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.

## Song

*"What Can I Give Him"*

Words: Christina G. Rosetti, from "In the Bleak Midwinter," Music: Gustav Holst

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart.

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 72*

*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

*LUYH 109 (first line)*

1 Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.