

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.

Pastor: Rev. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Laurey Zwart
Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ Video: Tom Clark ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

Opening Sentences and closing words from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 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

"The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation" *LUYH 885*

*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.**

LEADER As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry. As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned. As you have received, give. As you have heard, proclaim. And the blessing that you have received from Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be always with you. Amen.

*Parting Song

"All Praise to You, My God, This Night" *LUYH 394:1,3,4*

*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.

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.**

The Communion

"Come, You Disconsolate" LUYH 614
"Give Thanks" LUYH 358

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son.

PEOPLE **How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

*Song

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LUYH 590:1-3,5,8

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

"Kyrie Eleison" LUYH 635

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 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 **Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.**
3 They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
4 **Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
6 **It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**
7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
8 **The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.**
9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
10 **They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.**
11 By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
12 **But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.**
13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.
14 **May these words of my mouth
and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

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 Gospel Reading

Luke 4:14-21

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Creatively Covenantal

*Song of Response

"Ancient Words"

LUYH 762

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. Dying, he destroyed our death. Rising, he restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**