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.

Worship Leaders: Chris & Rin Goedhart ✦ Organ/Piano: Laurey Zwart
Sound: Will Breems ✦ Video: TBD ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

Christ the King Sunday
November 23, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture *Psalm 24:7-8, 10*

LEADER Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Silence

Song

"He Is Lord" *LUYH 227:1-2*

*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 Our help is in the name of the Lord;

PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**

LEADER It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

PEOPLE **to sing your praise, O Most High;**

LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Evening Hymn

"Come, Worship God" *LUYH 509:1,3,4*

Prayer of Confession

Silence

Collect

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.

*Benediction

LEADER May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*Song

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" *LUYH 223:1,4*

*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.

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their own church, as if Christ had come to build and not to break barriers:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where women who speak up for their dignity are treated with scorn or contempt:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where men try hard to be tough, because they are afraid to be tender:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where we, obsessed with being adults, forget to become like children:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where Jesus Christ calls us:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us. Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it. We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

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 for give our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever. Amen.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

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 of Assurance

"Before the Throne of God Above" *LUYH 682:3*

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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 Psalm

Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before him with thanksgiving**
and extol him with music and song.
3 For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
6 **Come, let us bow down in worship,**
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
7 **for he is our God**
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,
8 "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.
10 For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.'
11 So I declared on oath in my anger,
'They shall never enter my rest.'"

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.**

Silence

Prayer

Song

"Shepherd Me, O God" *LUYH 456 (chorus)*

The Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

Prayer

Song

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" *LUYH 225:1,3*

The Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:31-46*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Christ the King Reading *by Malcom Guite*

Sonnet: "Christ the King" *by Malcom Guite*

LEADER Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty'.
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
And seek a welcome from the world he made,
We see him only as a threat, a danger,
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.
And if he should fall sick then we take care
That he does not infect our private health,
We lock him in the prisons of our fear
Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.

Silence

Song

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" *LUYH 877*

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you
in all things, we hold to his Word and share his plea:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where nations budget for war, while Christ says,
"Put up your sword":

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where countries waste food and covet fashion,
while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where powerful governments claim their policies
are heaven blessed, while Scripture states that God
helps the powerless: