Worship Participants

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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.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture *Psalm 139:10-11*

LEADER If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Song: *"Abide with Me"* *LUYH 466:1-3*

Words and music: Henry F. Lyte, William H. Monk

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

*Greeting & Opening Sentences

LEADER To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

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;**

3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

Closing Sentences

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 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

PEOPLE **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

Closing Song: *"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"* *LUYH 943:1,3*

Words and music: Jeremiah E. Rankin, Ralph Vaughn Williams

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you:
God be with you till we meet again.

*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.

Refrain:
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me– he who died heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. [Refrain]

3. Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

Evening Prayers

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.**

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: *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"* *LUYH 257:1-4*

Words and music: John Farrell, Johann C. Nageli

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Song: *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* *LUYH 348*

Words and music: Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan
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1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow–
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song: *"God Is So Good"* *LUYH 777:1,2,4*

Words and music: Traditional

1. God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, he's so good to me.

2. He cares for me, He cares for me,
He cares for me, he's so good to me.

4. I praise his name, I praise his name,
I praise his name, he's so good to me.

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.

The Assurance *Romans 5:1-2*

LEADER Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Song: *"Amazing Grace"* *LUYH 691:1,3,4,5*

Words and music: John Newton, Adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell

1. Amazing grace – how sweet the sound –
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

The Psalm *Psalm 23 (KJV)*

1 **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
2 **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 **He restoreth my soul:**
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
4 **Yea, though I walk through the valley**
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5 **Thou preparest a table before me**
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Gospel Reading *John 10:11-18*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading *Ephesians 3:14-21*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Song: *"Jesus Loves Me"* *LUYH 709*

Words and music: Anna B. Warner, David R. McGuire, William B. Bradbury

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.