COVENANT COMMUNITY ONLINE

Tuesday Evening Prayer

**TUESDAY, 12 May 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Be swift, O God, to save us. **Come quickly, Lord, to help us.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord

**to sing psalms to your name, O Most High.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

**as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be forever. Amen**

**Minister:** Let us confess our sins to God.

**Gracious and holy God,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**against you and against our neighbour.**

**Your Spirit gives light,**

**but we have preferred darkness;**

**your Spirit gives wisdom**

**but we have been foolish;**

**you Spirit gives power**

**but we have trusted in our own strength.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son,**

**forgive our sins, and enable us by your Spirit**

**to serve you in joyful obedience,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen**

*Silence*

There is now no condemnation

for those who live in union with Christ Jesus;

for the law of the Spirit of life

has set us free from the law of sin and death.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer of the Evening**

**Minister:** God and Father of all as this day ends

we offer up its hours in praise to you.

As we take our rest, unite us by your Spirit,

in praise of Christ our Lord, the Alpha and Omega,

the First and Last,

in whom we make our prayer. **Amen.**

**Psalm 84**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour.

No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**Matthew 25.1–13**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God, whose Spirit helps us in our weakness

and guides us in our prayers,

we pray for the Church and for the world

in the name of Jesus Christ.

Renew the life and faith of the Church;

strengthen our witness;

and make us one in Christ.

Grant that we and all who confess that Christ is Lord

may be faithful in your service

and filled with the Spirit,

that the world may be turned to you.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Guide the nations in the ways of justice, liberty

and peace; and help them to seek

the unity and welfare of all people.

As we contemplate an exit strategy for lockdown,

give to all in authority wisdom to know

and strength to do what is right.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those in sorrow;

heal the sick in body and mind

and deliver the oppressed.

Grant us compassion for all who suffer,

and help us so to carry one another’s burdens

that we may fulfil the law of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks and praise

for all who have served you faithfully here on earth,

and especially those who have revealed to us

your grace in Christ….

May we and all your people

share the life and joy of your kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*In silence we bring more personal intercessions to God….*

We draw all our prayers together in the prayer

that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father….**

Lord our God

at the ending of this day,

and in the darkness and silence of this night,

cover us with healing and forgiveness,

that we may take our rest in peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

**The Benediction**

We will lie down in peace and take our rest;

**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

**The Dismissal**

May the souls of the faithful,

through the mercy of God,

rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

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