

EVENING VESPERS

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

O God, do not be far away. (Psalm 22, verse 11)

GATHERING MUSIC

Bless the Lord, Taize

Once the music starts to play, we invite you to be in silence.

WELCOME

Rev. Katherine A. Schofield

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: May the Almighty grant us a peaceful night
and a perfect rest.

Many: **Amen.**

One: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

Many: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

One: Let us confess our sins to God.

SILENT PRAYERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted.

Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you. By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SILENT MEDITATION

PSALM SINGING

Psalm 22: 23-31

O God, do not be far away; O God, do not be far away.

You who fear God, praise God!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;

stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel!

For God did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

God did not hide God's face from me, but heard when I cried to God.

O God, do not be far away; O God, do not be far away.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear God.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek God shall praise God.
May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.
For dominion belongs to God, and God rules over the nations.

O God, do not be far away; O God, do not be far away.

To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for God.
Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about God
and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.

O God, do not be far away; O God, do not be far away.

SILENT MEDITATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

St. Hildegard von Bingen

I, the blazing life of divine wisdom,
I set alight the beauty of the plains,
I radiate the waters,
I glow in the Sun, and the Moon and the stars.
With wisdom I order all things right.
I beautify the Earth.
I am the breeze that nurtures all things green.
I am the rain coming from the dew
That makes the fields laugh with the pleasure of life.
I call up tears, the perfume of holy work.
I am the yearning for good.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Bless the Lord, Taize

LIGHTING OF VESPER CANDLES

You are invited to come forward and light a candle(s) for people or situations you want to hold in the Light of God's Love. When you light the candle feel free to whisper the name of the person(s)/situation(s) for whom you are praying.

COLLECT

BENEDICTION

We invite you to leave the worship service in silence. If you wish, you are invited to remain in the sanctuary after the benediction and listen to the music. Rev. Schofield will stay in the church for a time if you would like her to say a word of prayer with you following the service. Just let her know if you would like to pray.