

EVENING VESPERS

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19, verse 14)

GATHERING MUSIC *Ubi Caritas, Taize*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Katherine Schofield

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*)

**Many: God, who dwells alongside us,
 Even within us,
 Your breath gives life;
 Your wisdom gives faith;
 Your weakness brings strength.
 Together, we seek Your Spirit,
 And give thanks for Your indwelling.
 God who made us,
 God who is one with us,
 God who guides us,
 We confess that –
 We have not loved Your creation as we ought;
 We have not followed You as You have asked us to;
 We have not been open to Your guidance.
 In silence, we ask and seek your forgiveness.**

SILENT MEDITATION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a beloved from a wedding canopy,
and like an athlete runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer.

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of God is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

O God, you are my rock and my redeemer.

SILENT MEDITATION

CONTEMPORARY READING

Walter Brueggemann

You are God, high, lifted up, majestic.

As we say, Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory... forever.

You are high and lifted up;

it dazzles us that you work your will
through human agents –
those whom you call and choose and empower,
even the weak, the lowly, the nobodies.

You are high and lifted up;

it staggers us that you have worked your will
through this Jesus of Nazareth,
he of no pedigree,
he of no form or comeliness,
he who emptied himself in obedience;
and you have raised him to new life,
before whom every knee shall bow.

You are high and lifted up;

it astonishes us that you work your will
through human agents like us,
people of little consequence and limited capacity.

You call us beyond ourselves;

you send us beyond our imagination

you empower us beyond our capacity,

and we become your agents in the world,
day by day doing justice and mercy and compassion.

At the end of the day we still say in astonishment,

that you are high and lifted up and majestic.

We are your creatures,

and we give our life back to you,
filled with gratitude,
eager for the rest that only you can give.

SILENT MEDITATION

CONGREGATIONAL SONG *Ubi Caritas, Taize*

***Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.***

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.

COLLECT

BENEDICTION

We invite you to leave the worship service in silence. Rev. Schofield will stay in the church for a time if you would like to pray privately.