



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

***May 23, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Vespers Service***

Opening Sentences

L: O God, come to our assistance.

P: O Lord, hasten to help us.

L: The Lord grant us a restful night and peace at the last.

P: Amen.

Hymn - 626

Day Is Done

Prayer of Confession

L: Almighty God, maker of all things,

P: have mercy on us.

L: Jesus Christ, redeemer of the world,

P: have mercy on us.

L: Holy Spirit, giver of life,

P: have mercy on us.

All: Merciful God, 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 and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

P: By faith I have a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel, that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.



Scripture:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Homily

Prayer

L: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: O God, you have designed this wonderful world, and know all things good for us. Give us such faith that, by day and by night, at all times and in all places, we may without fear entrust those who are dear to us to your never-failing love, in this life and in the life to come.

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 loves sake.

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn - 836

Abide With Me

Dismissal

P: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep rest in his peace.

L: May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

P: Amen.

L: Bless the Lord.

P: The Lord's name be praised. Amen.

Day Is Done

676

1 Day is done, but love un-fail-ing dwells ev-er here;
 2 Dark de-scends, but light un-end-ing shines through our night;
 3 Eyes will close, but you un-sleep-ing watch by our side.

shad-ows fall, but hope, pre-vail-ing, calms ev-ery fear.
 you are with us, ev-er lend-ing new strength to sight:
 Death may come; in love's safe-keep-ing still we a-bide.

God, our Mak-er, none for-sak-ing, take our hearts, of love's own
 one in love, your truth con-fess-ing, one in hope of heav-en's
 God of love, all e-vil quell-ing, sin for-giv-ing, fear dis-

mak-ing; watch our sleep-ing; guard our wak-ing; be al-ways near.
 bless-ing, may we see, in love's pos-sess-ing, love's end-less light!
 pel-ling, stay with us, our hearts in-dwell-ing, this e-ven-tide.

This 20th-century hymn by a Scottish Jesuit paraphrases several traditional evening prayers and takes its shape from the familiar Welsh tune to which it is set. Its rhyme pattern requires considerable poetic skill, as only three rhymes serve for the eight lines of text.

836 Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

By blending end of day and end of life, the imagery of this well-known Victorian hymn has made it valuable for both evening services and funerals. Although the author wrote his own music for it, the present tune has been firmly associated with this text for over 150 years.