Third Friday Jazz Vespers

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Garrett Spoelhof Trio
Featuring Rachel Caswell, vocalist

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
December 17, 2021
6:30 pm
Welcome to Third Friday Jazz Vespers at First Christian Church. For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into the songs, silence and scripture as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are beloved. May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

The Pattern of Vespers

Gathering: God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God’s bringing light into the darkness of our lives.

Psalms: Psalms are the Bible’s language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.

Word: God continues to communicate through scripture and through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God’s beloved children.

Prayers: Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.

Community: When we sing, pray, listen, and share life in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about “just me,” but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Going Out: As we leave the vesper service, we are reminded of Christ’s peace, presence and purpose in all of life.
ORDER OF SERVICE

Gathering

Gathering Music

Welcome

It has been a long day, a long week!
What has been done has been done;
What has not been done has not been done;
Let it be.

Lighting of Candles

Leader:

The coming night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all who are dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
New joys, new possibilities.

Evening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.
Lord Jesus,
You too were tired when day was done;
You met your friends at evening time.
Antiphon: (Sung by all. Repeat as indicated.)

Leader:

Lord Jesus,
You too enjoyed when nights drew on;
You told your tales at close of day.

Antiphon: (Sung by all. Repeat as indicated.)

Leader:

Lord Jesus
You kindled faith when lamps were low;
You opened scriptures, broke the bread,
And shed your light as darkness fell.

Antiphon: (Sung by all. Repeat as indicated.)
My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great. And my
Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, And your
From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the
Though the nations rage from age to age we remember who holds us fast. God’s
spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The
mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp. This
fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn. So from
very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn. There are
saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound till the
east to west shall my name be blessed. Could the world be about to turn? My
show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
tables spread every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe a-
way all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Text: Rory Cooney (Luke 1:46-55)
Melody: Traditional Irish; adapt Rory Cooney
Jazz Interpretation: Garrett Spoelhof

*Please stand as you are able
Psalm

Psalm 34:1-10
(ICV/NZPB/NRSV)

Refrain: (Sung by all. Repeat as indicated.)

Cantor:

1 I will praise God at all times.  
    His praise is always on my lips.
2 My whole being shall praise the Lord.  
    The humble will hear and be glad.

3 Tell the greatness of God with me.  
    Let us praise his name together.
4 I asked the Lord for help, and he answered me.  
    He saved me from all my fears.

Refrain:

Cantor:

5 Look towards God, and be radiant with light;  
    and your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by God,  
    and was saved from all troubles.

7 God saves those who honor him.  
    His angel stays close to them.
8 O taste and see that God is good.  
    O how blest are those who trust the Lord.
Refrain:

9 Honor God! You are his people
   No one who honors God will ever be in need.
10 Even strong lions may become weak and hungry
   But those who seek to serve God will have all good things.

Cantor:

Glory be to our Maker, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.
Jesus the Light of the World

Creating Fire

God is Love

A Prayer among Friends

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

You Have to Know Your Body as the Home of God

*Song

Text: Christina Rossetti, 1872, alt.
Music: Gustav Holst, 1906, alt.
Jazz Interpretation: Garrett Spoelhof
Community

During this time of quiet meditation, we are reminded that we are not alone. Indeed, we are bound to one another and to all creation in a living tapestry of God’s design.

**Practice:** Think of a discipline or practice that could help lead you to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Write down that practice on the colored paper and clip it to the line at the left of the sanctuary.

**Candle Table:** Light a candle for someone with whom you commit to love and support or for someone who has shown committed love and support for you.

**Reflection:** “Reflect on a commitment to serve and support that is difficult for you to fulfill. Write the commitment on the dissolvable paper and stir it into the water bowl with a prayer that God will help you overcome the difficulty.

**Welcome Table:** No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are invited to the Table to partake of the (gluten free) bread and cup, reminders of Christ’s radical welcome for all—no exceptions. Know that you are welcomed by Christ, loved by God, sustained by the Spirit, and you are not alone. Take the individualized elements back to your seat, open, and partake.

Jazz Meditation

Prayers

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung first by Cantor, then by all)*:

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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 forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
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Benediction

Leader:

May God the Great Creator, go on creating within us, Christ Jesus be our company and the Holy Spirit surround us with eternal grace. Amen.

All: Amen.

Postlude
PARTICIPANTS

The Garrett Spoelhof Trio
Rachel Caswell, vocals
Garrett Spoelhof, piano
Brendan Keller-Tuberg, bass
Carter Pearson, drums

Readers
Elma Jessen
Tim Jessen
Linda Abe

Staff
Linda Abe, Jazz Vespers Ministry
Will Jewsbury, Interim Pastor
Jan Harrington, Director of Music
Garrett Spoelhof, Director of Jazz Vespers
Ben Wesenberg, Director of Online Worship
Braeden Janes, Livestream Mixing

Next Third Friday Jazz Vespers: “Patience”
Friday, January 21, 2022, 6:30 pm

Acknowledgements and Sources:

Connection “Love God with all your heart”: Henri Nouwen, https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/love-god-with-all-your-heart;
You Have to Know Your Body as the home of God: Rebecca Parker, https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/you-have-know-your-body-home-god;

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Welcome!

Welcome to
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

An Invitation to Community

As God has welcomed us, we welcome you.

With all our differences--in age, ability and physical condition, in race, cultural background and economic status, in sexual orientation, gender identity & family structure-God has received each one with loving kindness, patience and joy.

All that we are together and all that we hope to be is made more perfect as the richness of varied lives meets the mystery of God’s unifying Spirit and we become the Body of Christ.

Contact Us
812-332-4459 | fcc@fccbloomington.org
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SUNDAY WORSHIP
AT 10:00 AM

JAZZ VESPERS
THIRD FRIDAYS 6:30 PM

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