



WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK:
A SERVICE OF DARKNESS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Church of the Redeemer:
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Welcome to a Service of Darkness. Tonight, we will focus on the shadows that occupy much of the space in Holy Week. With a glance towards the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, we pause to dwell in the natural, and life-giving darkness that so often surrounds our lives. The extinguishing of the candles represents our journey towards Good Friday. The candles will be extinguished one by one, excepting the final candle, which will be obscured from sight, though never snuffed out. If you are joining us online, you are encouraged to light your own candles at home, and extinguish candles at home as they are extinguished in the church.

Officiant: Susan Haig

DUSK

Siciliano (Violin Sonata No.4 in C minor) – BWV 1017 (*J.S. Bach*)

Tapers are lit

Welcome

The Prayers of the People

Please stand

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

Leader: For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world,
we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For the mission of the Church, that is faithful witness it may preach
the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For our catechumens and for their teachers and sponsors,
we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow
among nations and peoples, we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Leader: For grace to amend our lives and to further your reign, we pray to you, God.

All: **Kyrie eleison**

Common Prayer

Leader: Together we pray.

All: **God who cares for us,
the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,
let justice, kindness and love shine in our world.
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us.
Protect us from pride and from despair
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,
while worlds come and go. Amen.**

Please be seated
Lamentations 1.1-6

First Reading

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal.

She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies.

Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting-place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate, her priests groan;
her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper,
because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture;
they fled without strength before the pursuer.

Response: Psalm 70 (*George Black*)

Refrain:

Help me God. God, be quick to save me.

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O God, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced. **Refrain**

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.
Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is our God!" **Refrain**

But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer;
O God, do not tarry. **Refrain**

A candle is extinguished

Second Reading: "We grow accustomed to the Dark" (*Emily Dickinson*)

We grow accustomed to the Dark—
When Light is put away—
As when the Neighbor holds the Lamp
To witness her Goodbye—
A Moment—We uncertain step
For newness of the night—

Then—fit our Vision to the Dark—
And meet the Road—erect—
And so of larger—Darknesses—
Those Evenings of the Brain—
When not a Moon disclose a sign—
Or Star—come out—within—
The Bravest—grope a little—
And sometimes hit a Tree
Directly in the Forehead—
But as they learn to see—
Either the Darkness alters—
Or something in the sight
Adjusts itself to Midnight—
And Life steps almost straight.

Response: “The Infinite Shining Heavens” (*Robert Louis Stevenson / Ralph Vaughan Williams*)

The infinite shining heavens
Rose, and I saw in the night
Uncountable angel stars
Showering sorrow and light.
I saw them distant as heaven,
Dumb and shining and dead,
And the idle stars of the night
Were dearer to me than bread.
Night after night in my sorrow
The stars looked over the sea,
Till lo! I looked in the dusk
And a star had come down to me.

A candle is extinguished

TWILIGHT

Third Reading: “The Cyprus Curtain” (*Thomas Campion*)

The cypress curtain of the night is spread,
And over all a silent dew is cast.
The weaker cares by sleep are conquered.
But I alone with hideous grief aghast,

In spite of Morpheus' charms a watch do keep
 Over mine eyes to banish careless sleep.
 Yet oft my trembling eyes through faintness close;
 And then the map of Hell before me stands,
 Which ghosts do see and I am one of those
 Ordained to pine in sorrow's endless bands,
 Since from my wretched soul all hopes are reft,
 And now no cause of life to me is left.
 Grief, seize my soul for that will still endure
 When my crazed body is consumed and gone;
 Bear it to thy black den, there keep it sure,
 Where thou ten thousand souls dost tire upon:
 Yet all do not afford such food to thee
 All this poor one, the worsen part of me.

Response: "God in the Darkness"



1. God in the dark-ness, God be-yond our know-ing, pa-tient cre - a - tor,
 2. God in the dark-ness, God in all our griev-ing, friend of our tears, com-
 3. God in the dark-ness, God of ho - ly dream-ing, gi - ver of hope, and



seed in se-cret grow-ing, rock of the liv - ing, wa - ter e-ver
 pan - ion ne-ver leav - ing, draw-ing us past the li - mits of be-
 pledge of our re - deem-ing, Spir - it of truth, our mem-or - y and



flow - ing, come and re - new us.
 liev - ing, come and re - new us.
 mean- ing, come and re - new us.

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A candle is extinguished

Fourth Reading

Matthew 13.10-16

Then the disciples came and asked him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’ He answered, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that “seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.” With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

“You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.”

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

Response: “The Sound of Silence” (*Paul Simon / Judy Gaulke*)

Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence

In restless dreams, I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a street lamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence

And in the naked light, I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never shared

And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence

"Fools" said I, "You do not know
Silence like a cancer grows
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you"
But my words, like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
Then the sign said, "The words on the prophets are written on the subway walls
In tenement halls"
And whispered in the sound of silence

A candle is extinguished

DARKNESS

Fifth Reading

Song of Songs 5:2-8

I slept, but my heart was awake.
Listen! my beloved is knocking.
'Open to me, my sister, my love,
my dove, my perfect one;
for my head is wet with dew,
my locks with the drops of the night.'

I had put off my garment;
how could I put it on again?
I had bathed my feet;
how could I soil them?

My beloved thrust his hand into the opening,
and my inmost being yearned for him.
I arose to open to my beloved,
and my hands dripped with myrrh,
my fingers with liquid myrrh,
upon the handles of the bolt.

I opened to my beloved,
but my beloved had turned and was gone.
My soul failed me when he spoke.
I sought him, but did not find him;
I called him, but he gave no answer.

Making their rounds in the city
the sentinels found me;
they beat me, they wounded me,
they took away my mantle,
those sentinels of the walls.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
if you find my beloved,
tell him this:
I am faint with love.

Response: Taizé #37 “Within our darkest night”

The image shows a three-system musical score for a response. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system begins with a double bar line and repeat sign. The second system also begins with a double bar line and repeat sign. The third system ends with a double bar line and repeat sign. The lyrics are: "With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - Dans nos ob - scu - ri tés al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é - teint ja way, nev - er dies a way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the mais, ne s'é - teint ja mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri tés, al - lu - me le fire that nev - er dies a way, nev - er dies a way. With - in our dark - est feu qui ne s'é - teint ja mais, ne s'é - teint ja mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri".

Text: Taizé Community, 1991. Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

A candle is extinguished

Reflection: Margaret Rodrigues

Sixth Reading: “Dark Night of the Soul” (*St. John of the Cross*)

One dark night, fired with love’s urgent longings
— ah, the sheer grace! —
I went out unseen, my house being now all stilled.

In darkness, and secure, by the secret ladder, disguised,
— ah, the sheer grace! —
in darkness and concealment, my house being now all stilled.

On that glad night, in secret, for no one saw me,
nor did I look at anything,
with no other light or guide than the one that burned in my heart.

This guided me more surely than the light of noon
to where he was awaiting me
— him I knew so well —
there in a place where no one appeared.

O guiding night! O night more lovely than the dawn!
O night that has united the Lover with his beloved,
transforming the beloved in her Lover.
Upon my flowering breast which I kept wholly for him alone,
there he lay sleeping,
and I caressing him there in a breeze from the fanning cedars.

When the breeze blew from the turret, as I parted his hair,
it wounded my neck
with its gentle hand, suspending all my senses.

I abandoned and forgot myself, laying my face on my Beloved;
all things ceased; I went out from myself,
leaving my cares forgotten among the lilies.

Response: “Pie Jesu” (*Lili Boulanger*)

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

*Blessed Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
Give them eternal rest.*

The final candle is obscured from sight, but will never be snuffed out

Exeunt: “Akh im champen (Ah, my road)” (*Gevorg Dabagian*)

There is no dismissal in Holy Week.

The Journey continues with the Holy Eucharist for Maundy Thursday, tomorrow at 7:30 PM

HOLY WEEK CONTINUES AT REDEEMER

Maundy Thursday (April 6)

7:30 PM – Sung Eucharist, Foot-washing, Stripping of the Altar and Garden Watch (in the Church and Zoom)

Good Friday (April 7)

9:30 AM – Dramatic Liturgy for all ages (in the Church and on YouTube)

12 PM – Veneration of the Cross & Communion (in the Church and on Zoom)

Easter Eve (April 8)

9 PM – The Great Vigil & The First Eucharist of Easter (in the Church and on Zoom)

Easter Sunday (April 9)

9 AM – Easter Celebration (on Zoom only)

10:30 AM – Sung Eucharist (in the Church and on YouTube)