

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK: A SERVICE OF DARKNESS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Church of the Redeemer: 162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4 office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca 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.

Officiant: Paige Souter

DUSK

Item de virginibus (Hildegard von Bingen) *Sung in Latin. English translation:*

O most noble Greenness, rooted in the sun, And who shines in bright serenity upon the wheel, Nothing on earth can comprehend you, You are encircled in the arms of divine mysteries. You are radiant as the dawn and burn as the flame of the sun.

Tapers are lit

Please stand

Welcome

Prayers of the People



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: All: | For our catechumens and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, God. Kyrie eleison |
|-------------------------|--|
| Leader: All: | For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, God. Kyrie eleison |
| Leader: All: | 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. Kyrie eleison |
| Leader: All: | For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, God. Kyrie eleison |
| Leader: A ll: | For grace to amend our lives and to further your reign, we pray to you, God. 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.

Tapers are extinguished

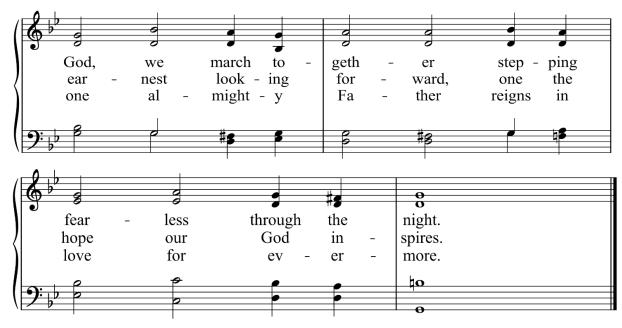
Please be seated

First Reading: "Nobody asked the Island if she wanted to be Holy" (Jay Hulme)

What is it to witness the millennia, these days like years, these years like seconds, the endless flickering light of the shifting sun; how do you hold onto yourself when the ocean tears at your being and makes you anew; when missionaries come bringing God in ways you've never yet seen; when their chanting replaces the birds as a song of worship; when their blood washes the land like a flood; when fires light the night, scorch the ground, haunt the centuries; when they flee, return, pray, always pray; how do you witness a religion spread without becoming a vassal, a vessel; how do you know who you are when who you are is always changing; when there no longer exists any iteration of your that makes sense? When the stars wheel round and the tide rolls in, and you're finally free of the land, do you dream of hermits and monks and saints? Hair thick with salt, eyes filled with angels, losing themselves in this shifting place, and hoping God will find them in the dark.

Hymn: Text: #536 (Common Praise) "Singing Songs of Expectation"



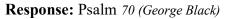


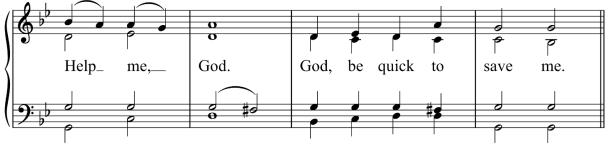
A candle is extinguished

Second Reading: Lamentations 1:1-6

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 subject to forced labor. 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; she 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.





Be pleased, O God, to <u>de</u>liver me;

O God, make haste to <u>help</u> 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 <u>turn</u> 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 <u>God</u>!" Refrain

But as for me, I am poor <u>and</u> needy; come to me speedily, <u>O</u> God. You are my helper and my <u>de</u>liverer; O God, do not <u>tar</u>ry. **Refrain**

A candle is extinguished

TWILIGHT

Third Reading: "The Hermit Studies Astronomy" (*Jay Hulme*) Wild man of the cave, the locals tell stories about you.

Left alone in the darkness you have been scratching a home out of stone.

When the star opens up far above, do you track where we're going?

Every single one of us, carving a home through the dark.

Response: "When the night feels my song" (Eon Gyasi Sinclair, Jay Joseph Malinowski, Carl Patrick Pengelly / arr. D. Norman)

I'm on the rocky road Heading down off the mountain slope And as my steps echo Louder than before

Another day is done Say goodbye to the setting sun See what I found Turn back to the ground Just like before

Hey beautiful day, hey beautiful day When the night feels my song I'll be home

Into the undergrowth Twist and turn on a lonely road In the twilight The day turns to night And I'm alone

And when the light has let I'm not sure of my every step Follow the wind that pushes me west Back to my bed

Hey beautiful day, hey beautiful day When the night feels my song I'll be home

A candle is extinguished

Fourth Reading: Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Response: Taizé #37 "Within our darkest night"

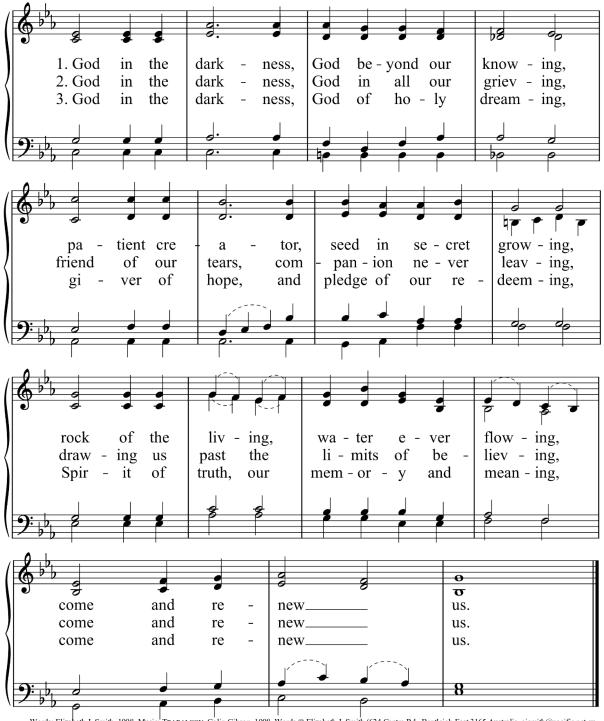


A candle is extinguished

DARKNESS

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before himand the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains: I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Response: "God in the Darkness"



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A candle is extinguished

Reflection: Steven Mackison

A moment of silence is observed

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: In the departure of the Lord (John Bull)

In the departure of the Lord, Of mortal body's vital breath, There lies a mystery worth record, Which He did show us here on earth: Who doth prepare to die each hour Must follow Christ our Saviour.

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

Exeunt: "Spiegel Im Spiegel" (Arvo Pärt)

There is no dismissal in Holy Week.

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WORSHIP WITH US Holy Week

Thursday March 28 (Maundy Thursday)

7:30 PM - Holy Eucharist and Garden Watch (in the Church and through YouTube)

Friday March 29 (Good Friday)

9:30 AM – Liturgy for All Ages (in the Church and through YouTube)12:00 PM - Good Friday (in the Church and through YouTube)

Saturday March 30

9:00 PM – The Great Vigil (in the Church and through YouTube)

Sunday March 31 (Easter Sunday)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only) 10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube) 8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)