



WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK:  
A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 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.*

**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*

**Welcome**

**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.**

*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"

1. Sing-ing songs of ex - pec - ta - tion, on - ward  
2. One the light of God's own pres - ence, o'er his  
3. One the strain the lips of thou - sands lift as

goes the pil - grim band, through the  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing  
from the heart of one; one the

night of doubt and sor - row, march - ing  
far the gloom and ter - ror, bright - ening  
con - flict, one the per - il, one the

to the prom-ised land. Clear be - fore us through the  
all the path we tread: one the ob - ject of our  
march in God be - gun: one the glad - ness of re -

dark - ness gleams and burns the guid - ing light: trust - ing  
jour - ney, one the faith which nev - er tires, one the  
joic - ing on the far e - ter - nal shore, where the

God, we march to - geth - er step - ping  
ear - nest look - ing for - ward, one the  
one al - might - y Fa - ther reigns in  
fear - less through the night.  
hope our God in - spires.  
love for ev - er - more.

*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.

**Response:** Psalm 70 (George Black)

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Help\_ me,— God. God, be quick to save me." The word "me" is underlined in the original image. The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines.

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*

## ***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”**

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 -

*fine*

*fine*

*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 him—

and 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"

1. God in the dark - ness, God be - yond our know - ing,  
 2. God in the dark - ness, God in all our griev - ing,  
 3. God in the dark - ness, God of ho - ly dream - ing,

pa - tient cre a - tor, seed in se - cret grow - ing,  
 friend of our tears, com - pan - ion ne - ver leav - ing,  
 gi - ver of hope, and pledge of our re - deem - ing,

rock of the liv - ing, wa - ter e - ver flow - ing,  
 draw - ing us past the li - mits of be - liev - ing,  
 Spir - it of truth, our mem - or - y and mean - ing,

come and re - new us.  
 come and re - new us.  
 come and re - new us.

*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)