

Easter Eve Candlelight Worship
April 11, 2020 † 7:30 p.m.

Chiming of the Hour

Preparing for Worship (a reflection before we begin) - Dan Koger

My Lord, today all is silent. You have given Your life for the salvation of the world. You died a horrific death, poured out all mercy from Your wounded heart, and now You rest in peace in the tomb as the soldiers keep vigil.

Lord, may I also keep vigil with You as You sleep. I know that this day ends with Your glorious triumph, Your victory over sin and death. But for now I sit quietly mourning Your death. Help me, dear Lord, to enter into the sorrow and the silence of this Holy Saturday.

As I keep vigil, awaiting the celebration of Your resurrection, fill me with hope. Help me to look forward to the celebration of Your resurrection, but also to look forward to the hope of my own share in the new life You won for the world.

I entrust my whole being to You, dear Lord, as You lay lifeless and still. May Your rest transform the brokenness of my own soul, my weaknesses, my sin and my frailty. I trust in Your power to do all things and I entrust my life to You. Jesus, I trust in You. I trust in you to bring light to my life. Light to our community. Light to our world. (copied)

Welcome - Dan Koger

Prelude – “He is Lord” (*Joan John, piano*)

Opening Prayer - Kim Miller

Lord of life and light, we woke today hoping against hope that you would be alive and with us. We had wished yesterday was a nightmare, but we know now that it was all too real. Afraid and without you, our faith fumbles and we are at a loss for what to do next. Our lives are punctuated with holy Saturdays, Lord, those times when all we'd hoped for is gone. Our prayers are left unanswered. Meaning is stripped from life. Moving forward seems a cruel impossibility. Help us. Even from the grave. Help us. Huddle us together, give us words to pray, hold us through the power of your Spirit until we once again see you face to face. Tonight, we remember the light of life that dawns on Easter. We prepare our hearts for the new morn and we drive away the darkness with the light of love. This night we focus on the light of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Musical Reflection – “An Upper Room” (*Stephanie Fisher, flute*)

“Easter Light”

*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.”*

“In the Beginning...Light” (a dramatic reading based Genesis 1 and John 1) - Leslie and Dan Koger

Musical Reflection – “And Can it Be”

Psalm Reading (Psalm 46) – Hunter Turner

Prayer of Humility – Stephen Miller

I want to believe, God of light, that the morning will push back the night. I want to believe, God of hope, that the stone will roll fully away. I want to believe, God of love, that the tomb will hold only angels, that the women will come to behold, that the others will come to believe; and I, along with them. Help my unbelief. Amen.

Musical Reflection – “Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” (Fernando Ortega)

Blessing - Kim Miller

Christ appeared to the disciples in the light of Easter morning, pushing away the darkness in their hearts. Christ pushes away the darkness in our hearts and in our world. Let this mystery be one we live. May God fashion us with Christ's hands. Form us with Christ's heart. Shape us with Christ's hope. Let resurrection hope be in our lives. Rest well this evening, for joy comes in the morning. Amen.

Postlude – “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (Joan John, piano)