

Easter Eve Candlelight Worship
April 3, 2021 † 5:30 p.m.

Chiming 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.
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. (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. A 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. men.

Hymn – “More Love to Thee”

More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea
More love, oh Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

“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 reading based Genesis 1 and John 1).....Leslie and Dan Koger

Hymn – “More Love to Thee”

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be
More love, oh Christ to Thee, More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

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.

Hymn – “More Love to Thee”

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise
Still all my prayer shall be
More love, oh Christ to Thee, More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Benediction.....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.....,..... “Alleulia! Sing to Jesus”

Joan John, piano

Worship Leaders

Dan Koger, Pastor
Kim Miller, Minister for Families and Social Media
Joan John, Pianist
Robin Duncan, Director of Music

Quartet

Shirley Lauer Hunter Turner Wilson Turner Tom Ullom