



Holy Saturday



Doubt. Darkness. Stillness. Silence.

April 16, 2022 + 7 PM

Holy Saturday is the third of the Great Three Days—the *Triduum*—consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Our worship on this day is a continuation of the service we began on Maundy Thursday and continued yesterday on Good Friday evening. Before the great triumph and celebration of Easter Sunday, this is a day to keep silence, to be still and know God's presence, and to remember that we are always waiting for the fullness of God's promised resurrection.

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 9AM in-person in the Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

Sunday at 11AM in-person in Wesley Hall

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom
(1-888-788-0099, meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

*Come, O Thou Traveler unknown,
Whom still I hold but cannot see;
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with Thee;
With Thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.*

*I need not tell Thee who I am,
My sin and misery declare;
Thyself hast called me by my name,
Look on Thy hands, and read it there;
But who, I ask Thee, who art Thou?
Tell me Thy name, and tell me now.*

*Yield to me now, for I am weak,
But confident in self-despair;
Speak to my heart, in blessings speak,
Be conquered by my instant prayer;
Speak, or Thou never hence shalt move,
And tell me if Thy name be Love.*

*'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me,
I hear Thy whisper in my heart;
The morning breaks, the shadows flee:
Pure, universal Love Thou art;
To me, to all Thy mercies move;
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.*

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Psalter Reading—Psalm 121.1-4 (UMH 844)

- 121** I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From whence does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**
- 3** The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Creation—adapted from Genesis 1.1—2.4a

James Weldon Johnson

And God stepped out on space, And He looked around and said,
"I'm lonely -- I'll make me a world."
And far as the eye of God could see Darkness covered everything,
Blacker than a hundred midnights Down in a cypress swamp.
Then God smiled, And the light broke, And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other, And God said, "That's good!"

Then God reached out and took the light in His hands,
And God rolled the light around in His hands Until He made the sun;
And He set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.
And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball
And flung it against the darkness,
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.
Then down between The darkness and the light He hurled the world;
And God said, *"That's good!"*
Then God himself stepped down --
And the sun was on His right hand, And the moon was on His left;
The stars were clustered about His head,
And the earth was under His feet.
And God walked, and where He trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out And bulged the mountains up.
Then He stopped and looked and saw That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And He spat out the seven seas;
He batted His eyes, and the lightnings flashed;
He clapped His hands, and the thunders rolled;
And the waters above the earth came down, The cooling waters came down.
Then the green grass sprouted, And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again, And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around His shoulder.
Then God raised His arm and He waved His hand
Over the sea and over the land,
And He said, *"Bring forth! Bring forth!"*
And quicker than God could drop His hand.
Fishes and fowls And beasts and birds Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,
And split the air with their wings. And God said, *"That's good!"*
Then God walked around, And God looked around On all that He had made.
He looked at His sun, And He looked at His moon,
And He looked at His little stars;
He looked on His world With all its living things,
And God said, *"I'm lonely still."*
Then God sat down On the side of a hill where He could think;
By a deep, wide river He sat down; With His head in His hands,
God thought and thought, Till He thought, *"I'll make me a man!"*
Up from the bed of the river God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river He kneeled Him down;

And there the great God Almighty Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of His hand;
This Great God, Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust Toiling over a lump of clay
Till He shaped it in His own image;
Then into it He blew the breath of life, And man became a living soul. Amen. Amen.

From *God's Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson.
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Hymn (adapted from Psalm 139)

The Lone, Wild Bird

TFWS 2052

***The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.***

***And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me, too.***

***The ends of earth are in your hand,
the sea's dark deep and far off land.***

***And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me, too.***

***Each secret thought is known to you,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.***

***In secret depths you knit my frame,
before my birth you spoke my name;
within my soul, as close as breath,
so near to me, in life, in death.***

***O search me, God, my heart reveal,
renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me, too.***

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A New Heart—Ezekiel 36.24-28 (CEB)

²⁴I will take you from the nations, I will gather you from all the countries, and I will bring you to your own fertile land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be cleansed of all your pollution. I will cleanse you of all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your stony heart from your body and replace it with a living one, ²⁷and I will give you my spirit so that you may walk according to my regulations and carefully observe my case laws. ²⁸Then you will live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Psalter Reading—Psalm 143.1-10 (UMH 856-857)

- 143** Hear my prayer, O LORD;
in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications;
in your righteousness answer me!
- 2** *Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.*
- 3** For enemies have pursued me,
they have crushed my life to the ground,
they have made me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4** *Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.*
- 5** I remember the days of old,
I meditate on all you have done;
I muse on what your hands have wrought.
- 6** *I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.*
- 7** Make haste to answer me, O LORD;
my spirit fails!
*Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down to the pit.*
- 8** In the morning let me hear of your steadfast love,
for in you I put my trust.
*Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.*
- 9** Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge!
- 10** Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!
*Let your good Spirit lead me
on a level path!*

Our New Life in Christ—Romans 6.3-11 (CEB)

³Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. ⁵If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his. ⁶This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, ⁷because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. ⁸But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. ¹⁰He died to sin once and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. ¹¹In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Psalter Reading—Psalm 31.1-5 (UMH 764)

31 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness, deliver me!
2 *Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!*
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
4 *take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.*
5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Hymn

Hold On To Me

*When the best of me is barely breathin'
When I'm not somebody I believe in
Hold on to me
When I miss the light the night has stolen
When I'm slammin' all the doors You've opened
Hold on to me hold on to me
Hold on to me when it's too dark to see You
When I am sure I have reached the end
Hold on to me when I forget I need You
When I let go hold me again
When I don't feel like I'm worth defending
When I'm tired of all my pretending
Hold on to me
When I start to break in desperation
Underneath the weight of expectation
Hold on to me hold on to me
Hold on to me when it's too dark to see You
When I am sure I have reached the end
Hold on to me when I forget I need You
When I let go hold me again
I could rest here in Your arms forever
'Cause I know nobody loves me better
Hold on to me hold on to me*

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Jesus' Body is Buried—John 19.31-42 (CEB)

³¹It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. ³²Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. ³³When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs. ³⁴However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he speaks the truth, and he has testified so that you also can believe. ³⁶These things happened to fulfill the scripture, *They won't break any of his bones.* ³⁷And another scripture says, *They will look at him whom they have pierced.*

³⁸After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. ³⁹Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. ⁴⁰Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. ⁴¹There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

Psalter Reading—Psalm 22.27-31 (UMH 753)

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.

²⁹**All who sleep in the earth
shall bow down to the Lord;**

all who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord,
and I shall live for God.

³⁰**Posterity will serve the Lord;**
each generation shall tell of the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
Surely the Lord has done it.

Closing Prayer

O God, Creator of heaven and earth:

*Grant that, as the crucified body of Jesus was laid in the tomb
and rested on this holy sabbath,*

*so we may await with him the coming of the third day,
and rise with him to newness of life;*

who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever.

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.*

*Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering,
and comfort the afflicted; all for your love's sake.*

*As you hovered over the darkness that covered the earth in the beginning,
now may your Spirit move over us in the silence of this day,
preparing us to be raised into a new life in you and with your new creation.*

Amen.

*Our worship continues tomorrow, on Easter Sunday,
at 7 am on the North Lawn,
at 9 am in the Sanctuary or online, and
at 11 am in Wesley Hall.*

Join us as we welcome the Risen One for whom we have waited.