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Holy Saturday

March 30, 2024 + 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.

Solo

Waiting for Dawn to Break

Elizabeth Philpot

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*)

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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Silent Listening

Hymn

The Lone, Wild Bird
(adapted from Psalm 139)

TFWS 2052

A New Heart—Ezekiel 36.24-28 (*NRSVUE*)

²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you shall 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 (NRSVUE)

³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to 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.

Silent Listening

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—Matthew 27.57-66 (NRSVUE)

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

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.

In the Grave—1 Peter 3.19-20 (NRSVUE)

¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water.

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.*



Celebrate the Risen Christ with Us on Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Worship

7 AM, The Chapel

Traditional Worship

9 AM, Sanctuary and online

Modern Worship

11 AM, Wesley Hall

All are welcome. All worship spaces will be Easter lily-free.
Online Services at www.facebook.com/umcberea/live.
Bulletins and more information at www.umcb.org.