

Holy Darkness *Dan Schutte*

Holy Darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you O God of silence,
We embrace your holy night.

I have tried you in fires of affliction;
I have taught your soul to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness,
there will I plant my seed.

I have taught you the price of compassion;
You have stood before the grave.
Though my love can seem
Like a raging storm,
This is the love that saves.

In your deepest hour of darkness
I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit,
Will my riches fill your soul.

Prayer Leader:
Cheryl Keehner, CSA
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That was then, this is now.



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

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To Ponder: Cheryl Keehner, Reflection

Our Lenten journey is leading us toward Jerusalem. We are being drawn into the drama, with the apostles sensing that Jesus is in danger. In the days leading up to the holidays, visitors from all of parts of the country crowd into the city, eager to visit the Temple and prepare for the Feast. The chief priests have given orders that anyone who knows that Jesus is in the town should report it to them. The Romans have established a curfew and all visitors must leave the city at sunset.

Tense and tired, Jesus is determined to celebrate the Passover. Sensing what is about to happen, at the end of each day, Jesus retires to the Garden of Olives to spend time in prayer. He also seeks the company of close friends in Bethany at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Tonight, let's let quiet reflection and shared prayer lead us from the past to the present. The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus happened over 2000 year ago. The way of the cross is being repeated in our own country and around the world. Many are living under tyranny. People suffer injustice. They are persecuted, betrayed, they live in exile, imprisoned and put to death. And they cry out with Jesus, where is God?

Meister Eckhart reminded us at Christmas that we are called to bring Jesus into life here and now. So too in Lent we are called to witness Jesus dying in our own time by living Gospel values and spreading "good news" We must help people carry their crosses, be a compassionate presence in their suffering, affirming that "all lives matter." Our message is a reminder that death, evil and suffering do not have the last word. When the darkness breaks, there is Resurrection.

Reading: Madeline L'Engle

It is when things go wrong,
when things do not happen,
when our prayer seems to have been lost,
that God is most present.

We do not need sheltering wings
when things go smoothly.
We are closest to God
in the darkness
stumbling along blindly.

God did not send his Son
into the world
to condemn the world
but that the world might be saved
through him. *John 3: 17*

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...