



**Church of the Covenant**  
**Holy Saturday March 30, 2013**  
**Meditative Prayer Vigil 12-1 pm**

*Be Still and Know that God is God. ~Psalm 46*

**Welcome to Church of the Covenant on this Holy Saturday.** As we continue to journey as pilgrims through this Holy Week, walking with Jesus from the Palms of Sunday to the Resurrection of Easter, today we are faced with the Silence of God. Jesus is dead and lies in the tomb. Our memories are freshly filled with the cross of suffering and death that is Good Friday. And today we are invited to simply **BE**. To be with the silence that is unique to this day. To be with the reality that sometimes we don't have answers in life. To be in solidarity with all those whose voices are silenced by injustice and neglect. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is fall silent, and simply *be*. We must simply be even in the face of the crosses that we and those we love still face, even in the face of a planet in peril, even in the face of social injustices, inequality and structural sin. This is a day to be still and know that God is God. So today, we sit, we meditate, we pray. And in hope, we long for the dawning of hope that tomorrow will bring.

Today's service is intentionally simple. Our Minister for Music Tom Handel will be playing some meditative music on the organ interspersed with some times of silence, and all are invited to come in and sit in a pew in a meditative, prayerful manner. We ask that you remain quiet during your time in this space. Please feel free to stay for the entire hour, or any portion of it, depending on how you feel called. You are also welcome to light a candle of prayer at the prayer table up to the left of the front chancel in the sanctuary. Below you will find some suggested scripture passages and prayers you may find helpful during your meditation. And if you are able, please come back to join us tomorrow morning at 10:30am for our Easter service.

**Gospel for Holy Saturday: Luke 23:50-56**

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## **Suggested Readings and Prayers:**

### **Psalm 46**

**Prayer:** Bounteous God, who created the universe in love, we thank you for the gift of stillness – for rest in the night and the day’s busyness, for the silence of the winter earth followed by spring’s energy and summer’s fruiting. In the pattern of the seasons, in the rhythm of our days, show us the stillness that renews life, the letting go that deepens our strength of soul, and the endings that bring us to eternal life. We pray this in the name of the One who came and joined in creation, Jesus Christ, AMEN.

### **Psalm 42:7-11**

**Prayer:** God of freedom, in the Red Sea you give us a symbol of our baptism; grant that all the peoples of the earth may come to new birth by water and the Spirit and find peace, liberation and concord, through the Prince of Peace who frees us, Amen.

### **Isaiah 12.2-6**

**Prayer:** God our provider, by the power of your Word you create all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth; give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, and nourish at your table all who hunger for you, that our lives may bear the abundant fruit of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

### **Proverbs 8:1-8**

**Prayer:** Fountain of wisdom, by your word you set the universe in space, and with your hands you molded us in your image. In all of creation we see signs of your care. Guide us always into your ways, that in your wisdom we may find life abundant, and live forever in the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the way the truth, and the life. Amen.

### **Romans 6:3-11**

**Prayer:** God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

*Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.*



**Church of the Covenant**  
**Holy Saturday March 30, 2013**  
**Meditative Prayer Vigil 12-1 pm**

*Be Still and Know that God is God. ~Psalm 46*

**Welcome to Church of the Covenant on this Holy Saturday.** As we continue to journey as pilgrims through this Holy Week, walking with Jesus from the Palms of Sunday to the Resurrection of Easter, today we are faced with the Silence of God. Jesus is dead and lies in the tomb. Our memories are freshly filled with the cross of suffering and death that is Good Friday. And today we are invited to simply **BE**. To be with the silence that is unique to this day. To be with the reality that sometimes we don't have answers in life. To be in solidarity with all those whose voices are silenced by injustice and neglect. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is fall silent, and simply *be*. We must simply be even in the face of the crosses that we and those we love still face, even in the face of a planet in peril, even in the face of social injustices, inequality and structural sin. This is a day to be still and know that God is God. So today, we sit, we meditate, we pray. And in hope, we long for the dawning of hope that tomorrow will bring.

Today's service is intentionally simple. Our Minister for Music Tom Handel will be playing some meditative music on the organ interspersed with some times of silence, and all are invited to come in and sit in a pew in a meditative, prayerful manner. We ask that you remain quiet during your time in this space. Please feel free to stay for the entire hour, or any portion of it, depending on how you feel called. You are also welcome to light a candle of prayer at the prayer table up to the left of the front chancel in the sanctuary. Below you will find some suggested scripture passages and prayers you may find helpful during your meditation. And if you are able, please come back to join us tomorrow morning at 10:30am for our Easter service.

**Gospel for Holy Saturday: Luke 23:50-56**

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## **Suggested Readings and Prayers:**

### **Psalm 46**

**Prayer:** Bounteous God, who created the universe in love, we thank you for the gift of stillness – for rest in the night and the day’s busyness, for the silence of the winter earth followed by spring’s energy and summer’s fruiting. In the pattern of the seasons, in the rhythm of our days, show us the stillness that renews life, the letting go that deepens our strength of soul, and the endings that bring us to eternal life. We pray this in the name of the One who came and joined in creation, Jesus Christ, AMEN.

### **Psalm 42:7-11**

**Prayer:** God of freedom, in the Red Sea you give us a symbol of our baptism; grant that all the peoples of the earth may come to new birth by water and the Spirit and find peace, liberation and concord, through the Prince of Peace who frees us, Amen.

### **Isaiah 12.2-6**

**Prayer:** God our provider, by the power of your Word you create all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth; give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, and nourish at your table all who hunger for you, that our lives may bear the abundant fruit of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

### **Proverbs 8:1-8**

**Prayer:** Fountain of wisdom, by your word you set the universe in space, and with your hands you molded us in your image. In all of creation we see signs of your care. Guide us always into your ways, that in your wisdom we may find life abundant, and live forever in the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the way the truth, and the life. Amen.

### **Romans 6:3-11**

**Prayer:** God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this day, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

*Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.*