March 16, 2024

A SERVICE FOR HOLY SATURDAY An Easter Prayer Vigil

GATHERING MUSIC "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done" UMH 287

INTRODUCTION

This is a service for Holy Saturday, which lasts until sundown. It is primarily a service of silence, punctuated at times by words...

ENTRANCE

Silent procession as worship leader carries a Bible to the lectern or altar. Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

L: Come this day and open your hearts. Wait for the Lord.

P: We come from the emptiness of loss and await God's word for us.

- L: There is time. The Word will be given.
- P: We will wait and pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, creator of heaven and earth, The crucified body of your Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath. *(Silent pause)* May we await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life. Amen. *(Silent pause)*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Embodying the Word

Good Friday is the most agonizing service of the Christian year. Holy Saturday is the most contemplative...

FIRST READING Job 14:1-14

A lament on the finality of death.

(Pause)

SONG "At the Name of Jesus"

UMH 168

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 UMH Psalter 764 *A cry for God's protection in the face of danger and death. (Read in unison, pausing between verses; if online all are on mute and read aloud.)*

(Pause)

SONG "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

SECOND READING | Peter 4:1-8

Be prepared to suffer in this life, as Christ suffered, and put sin to death for the sake of your prayers.

(Pause)

SONG "Depth of Mercy"

UMH 355

Gospel ReadingMatthew 27:57-66 (all stand)

Joseph of Arimathea requests the body of Jesus be placed in a new tomb he owns. Some religious leaders ask Pilate to place a contingent of guards around the tomb to ensure the followers of Jesus cannot steal the body and claim Jesus rose from the dead.

(Pause)

SONG "Jesus, Remember Me"

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for the church and the world:

Hear our silent prayers, O God... (Pause)

Hear these prayers: For the leaders and mission of your church in every place... (*Pause*)

For all that lives and moves upon the earth, and all that sustains our lives... (Pause)

For every leader and all who work for justice, freedom, and peace... (Pause)

For all who labor and the fruits of their work... (Pause)

For the sick, all prisoners, and the lonely, and all who remember and care for them... (*Pause*)

For all who are born this day, and all who will die... (Pause)

UMH 488 (4 times)

UMH 117

We pray as Jesus taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

(Silence, perhaps an uncomfortable silence)

HE IS NOT HERE

The sadness of Saturday resides in our souls... (reading continues) He is not here. And we wait.

(Pause)

SONG "Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

SENDING FORTH Leader: Go now in peace. AMEN.

(All depart in silence or soft music playing)

POSTLUDE "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

UMH 297

<u>Resources</u>

prayers adapted from: The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. (Public Domain) https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/worship-planning-helps-for-holy-saturday-2016morning-or-early-afternoon www.ministry matters.com The United Methodist Book of Worship (BOW)