



Holy Week
VIGIL
2020

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VIGIL • WITH YOURSELF

This is your time – What do you seek?
Annie Dillard wrote: *We live in all we seek.*

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

THEN:

Read Psalm 139:1-18

Here is a prayer:

God, you are the reason I love. You have made me tender. You have made me wonder. I seek what I do not know. I long for what I cannot see. I ache for what is genuine and real. I am like a ghost waiting on your word, striking the empty fog with this one thought: God I am here. Do you see me? AMEN

Imagine God is looking at you. What does God see?

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

VIGIL • WITH JESUS

This is your time – time you have set aside to stay awake. What does it mean to stay awake?

The disciples had trouble staying awake.

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

Keeping a vigil is the act of staying awake when you would otherwise be sleeping. It also an act of waiting with someone, of being present to them. Keeping vigil is an act of attention. You can keep vigil for your own self and for another. On this Easter eve, as the sun is setting, take a moment to breathe. Do not breathe in any special way. Simply observe how you are breathing.

As you breathe, let yourself discover why you are keeping this vigil? Why do you want to stay awake when the world is sleeping? For whom do you sit your vigil? What are you waiting in silence for?

A Vigil on Holy Saturday in the time of the COVID may have three parts: A Vigil with Yourself; A Vigil with Jesus; A Vigil with the Whole World. This may take all night. It may take 30 minutes. It is your Vigil. It does not belong to anybody else.

TO ORIENT YOURSELF:

You might light a candle,
and on some future breath read Isaiah 55.

The poet of those words wants us to know that grace is free, available, present and fills all of creation.

John O'Donohue wrote this:

*You have been forced to enter empty time.
The desire that drove you has relinquished.
There is nothing else to do now but rest
And patiently learn to receive the self
You have forsaken in the race of days.*

THEN:

Imagine why the disciples could not stay awake. Jesus often uses the metaphor of staying awake as a model for spiritual attention. How do we know if we are awake in that religious sense? What would be the signs?

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

Here is a prayer:

Jesus, who are you to me? How do I follow? How do I find you in my ordinary life? Where are you in this world of sheltering away from everything? Where are you in this life of need and fear. You who know the desperate pain of suffering, be with us. Jesus, how can we bring your light into this moment? Teach us to see as you do. AMEN

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

VIGIL • WITH THE WHOLE WORLD

This is your time – What does it mean to offer it and sit vigil with the whole world? When you imagine the whole world what do you see? Do you see faces, and the stories of all people? Do you see the earth hanging like a blue marble in the dark universe?

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

Read: Luke 20:9-17

THEN:

What is it that the vineyard owner wants the tenants to know? Readers of this teaching story will say that the slaves represent the prophets who have over and over shown the world how God sees our lives.

Jesus was killed by crucifixion, a method of tortured death reserved by the Roman Empire to put fear in the hearts of ordinary people.

Luke 20:17

“But he looked at them and said, “What then does this text mean?”

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?”

Be silent and still for as long as you can.

John 1:5

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

FINALLY:

Read: Luke 24:1-9

The women who saw the empty tomb told everyone.

What does Easter joy mean to you ,and what do you want to tell everyone? What do you want them to see? What difference does Easter make to the world?

Here is a prayer:

Here I am, God. Here is the world. I hold it in my heart and offer it for the great hope of your vision. Show us what the world will look like one day when you are all in all and no one is left out of that joy. Break my heart open this morning and let love flood through everything. Let joy be so palpable, so real that it is felt in the senses and surges throughout the land. AMEN

PSALM 34: 8a

O taste and see that the Lord is good.