

**First United Methodist Church**  
**Moorestown, New Jersey**  
**HOLY SATURDAY, EASTER VIGIL**  
**APRIL 3, 2010**  
**5:30 pm**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WORDS OF GATHERING:**

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

**People: We come from the darkness of loss and await God's word for us.**

Leader: There is time. The Word will be given.

**People: We will wait and pray.**

**SONG: HOLY GROUND** *(by Christopher Beatty)*

This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground.

For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.

This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground

For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.

These are holy hands. He's given us holy hands.

He works through these hands and so these hands are holy.

These are holy hands. He's given us holy hands.

He works through these hands and so these hands are holy. *(1893 Meadowgreen Music Co.)*

**READING:** Job 14:1-14

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

**HAVE MERCY ON ME** *(By Gerrit Gustafson)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love, according to Your great compassion blot out my transgression. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love, wash away my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin.

*Chorus: I will be whiter than snow, I will be whiter than snow;*

*I will be whiter than snow, I will be whiter than snow. (repeat beginning)*

By the blood I am whiter than snow. I am made whiter than snow;

By the blood I am whiter than snow. I am made whiter than snow. *(1987 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)*

**READING:** Psalm 130

**UNISON PRAYER:**

Lord, who sits with us in darkness and weeps with us, be present now and make your presence known. Our souls ache for Christ. We fear the darkness and the loneliness. We don't know what to do. There are so many times, in the midst of bright sunshine, that we have darkened our souls toward you, not heeding your word, but acting in ways that hurt and alienate others. Jesus came that we might understand the ways you want us to live.

We have heard his words, seen the miracles, rejoiced at the healing; but we have chosen to believe those things are story and not truth. How foolish we are, Lord! Soften our hearts. Shine the light of your love into our lives once more. Forgive and heal us, we pray. AMEN.

**READING:** Psalm 31:1-5

**HYMN 117 O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST** *(by Isaac Watts)*

verses 1 & 2

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;

sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure. *(Public Domain)*

**WORSHIP IN GIVING:**

Tithes and Offerings

**READING:**

John 19:38-42

**MEDITATION:**

The Day After

Pastor Steve Donat

**SONG: O TASTE AND SEE** *(by Robert Rhodes)*

O taste and see that the Lord is good. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed is the one that trusteth in him. Blessed is the one that trusteth in him.

O taste and see that the Lord is good. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

He is good, He is good, He is good. *(1973 Robert Rhodes)*

**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.

**READING: He Is Not Here**

The darkness of Saturday resides in our souls. Outside the sun may be shining, people may be going about their business; but we cannot forget what happened last night, how he cried from the Cross, his last words "It is finished" and "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit."

No amount of noise, color, busyness can ease the darkness.

He is not here. He is not sitting with us, walking with us, comforting us. We are alone. And we wait. For what we are not sure.....for some sign of hope, some sign of life, some miracle that will mend our brokenness and bind up our wounded spirits.

He is not here. And we are frightened. We could count on him being present. What are we to do in this world without Jesus? Our souls are utterly bereft. Lord, God, where are you? Where is the hope? Come to us.

Come, now.....please.

He is not here. And we wait.

**ANNOINTING: *Anyone who wishes to do so is encouraged to come to the Communion rail for anointing with oil and prayer. This is for the healing of our human hurts in obedience to the instruction in James 5:14-16. The oil represents the Holy Spirit. Your coming forward represents your faith and submission to the will of God. All needs may be brought into the presence of God ~ needs for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, as well as intercession for the needs of others.***

**HYMN 488 JESUS, REMEMBER ME** (by Jacques Berthier)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (1981 Les Presses de Taizé)

**BENEDICTION:** Go now in peace. God's peace will be with you. AMEN.

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:** Worship: 690 Sunday School: 234

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO:** Susan Rapp and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Marv Wilkerson.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Stanton Webb, Faye Sienkiewicz, Ruth Allen, Joan Woodworth (Ann's sister-in-law), Ben Brenner, Mary Jane Harris (niece of Bob Rodriguez), Paul Haynes, Isaiah Daniel Jefferson, Jean Berner, Kelly Secor, Amy Secor, Michelle Knowles, Diane Allen, William Klansek (friend of Dick Loring), Aril Bryant (friend of Emily Wright), Sebastian Hudak, Bill Johnson (friend of Karen Murray), Lynn Gibson (friend of Donna Banes), Raymond Smith (family friend of Jo Ann Kilcher), Nan Scheyhing, William Wood, Paul Bailey, Joan Flamini, Daniel Blackman, Mary Louise Shingleton.

**SERVING OVERSEAS:** James Shields (son of Marcia Koury), David Leventhal (nephew of Diane & John Schwarz)

**The Staff of First United Methodist Church**

Stephen Donat, Senior Pastor	Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor	Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Glenn Rodgers, Director of Music	Sue Harris, Parish Nurse
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed.	Bill McIlmail, Property Coordinator
Brad Kenney, Youth Director	Steve Bixby, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Devika Gill, Pre-School Director	

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