

Dear HBC Family-

It has truly been a struggle to not share the days of this Holy Week with you in person. But it has also been deeply encouraging to see how we have been able to reach out to our members, our community and the world in new and creative ways. While we would not have chosen to live these last several weeks as we have, we can be sure that God has been shared and glorified in brand-new ways!

Normally, we would have the sanctuary open throughout the day on Good Friday and invite you to participate in various prayer stations. Because we can't do so this year, we instead offer you a devotional for each day of this coming weekend. You are encouraged to grab your Bible and a notebook and sit in a peaceful place that inspires you (indoors or out) and read through the blessings offered each day. At the end of each devotional there is a link to a song that you can listen to as part of your meditation.

All of the readings (as well as the blessings for our Lenten Wreath) come from artist and writer Jan Richardson. Most can be found in her book *Circle of Grace*, but you can find more of her work at [paintedprayerbook.com](http://paintedprayerbook.com).

I encourage you to take the time we have been gifted, especially this weekend, and consider what the events we remember this weekend mean to each of us. Remember, Jesus shows us that even in the bleakest moments we have the promise of resurrection. Let's recommit ourselves to daily live in joy as people of the resurrection.

God's grace to each of you,  
Pastor Eli

## *Prayer Stations for Easter Weekend*



### A Reflection for Good Friday

*A reading from Scripture for Good Friday: John 18.1-19.42*

*There they crucified him.*

—John 18.18

All too quickly the breaking of the bread becomes the breaking of the flesh.

All too soon the cup offered at the table becomes the life poured out at the cross.

After the rending, after the emptying; an impossible stillness, an aching silence, an incomprehensible hollow for which no word will ever be adequate.

And now? How will we meet this silence? What will we do with this ache?

### **Still**

This day let all stand still  
in silence, in sorrow.

Sun and moon be still.

Earth be still.

Still the waters.

Still the wind.

Let the ground gape in stunned lamentation.

Let it weep as it receives what it thinks it will not give up.

Let it groan as it gathers the One who was thought forever stilled.

Time be still.

Watch and wait.

Still.

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Allow yourself to spend some time with these words as well as the words of Scripture noted above. You may want to jot down some thoughts and words of prayer in a notebook or on a sheet of paper. To conclude your time of reflection today, you are encouraged to go to the link listed below and listen to the beautiful old hymn, *When I Survey*, chosen especially for this day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPdmmzRHIMA>



## A Reflection for Holy Saturday

*“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in God.”*  
—Lamentations 3.24

*And now?* we asked yesterday. What do we do now?

We wait. We watch. We keep vigil. We remind ourselves to breathe.

And if, still reeling from the rending, we hardly know what we keep vigil for, it is no matter.

And if, in our aching, we hardly know how to hope, it is no cause for despair.

On this day, all we need to know is this:

We do not wait alone.

### Therefore I Will Hope

I have no cause  
to linger beside  
this place of death,

no reason  
to keep vigil  
where life has left,

and yet I cannot go,  
cannot bring myself  
to cleave myself  
from here,

can only pray  
that this waiting  
might yet be a blessing  
and this grieving  
yet a blessing  
and this stone  
yet a blessing  
and this silence  
yet a blessing  
still.

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You are once again invited to spend some time of quiet reflection with these words. Consider the immensity of the struggle for those early followers of Jesus as they endured that long Saturday. The link below will take you to a song entitled *My Sweet Lord*. Listen to the message of the song and know that God hears our prayers even in the middle of the darkest days. (The lyrics are provided on the next page.)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d-WI1db2oA>

## **My Sweet Lord**

My sweet Lord, desperately  
I am alone, and afraid to be  
My love is gone, so far away  
I need my sweet Lord's help today

Let Your love shine down on me  
And light the way to be  
Oh and these are the words that I pray  
I need my sweet Lord's help today

Blind is the fool, I see that now  
I broke the rules, and let You down  
I walked alone, now I have run dry  
I need my sweet Lord's help tonight

Let Your love shine down on me  
And light the way to be  
Let Your love shine down on me  
Oh and these are the words that I pray  
I need my sweet Lord's help today  
Oh I need my sweet Lord's help today



## A Reflection for Easter Sunday

A Reading from Scripture for Easter Sunday-  
John 20.1-18 or Luke 24.1-12

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."*

—John 20.11-13

While it was still dark.

While it was still night.

While she could not see.

While she thought death held sway.

While she grieved.

While she wept.

While it was still dark, resurrection began.

### Seen

You had not imagined  
that something so empty  
could fill you  
to overflowing,

and now you carry  
the knowledge  
like an awful treasure  
or like a child  
that roots itself  
beneath your heart:

how the emptiness  
will bear forth  
a new world  
that you cannot fathom  
but on whose edge  
you stand.

So why do you linger?  
You have seen,  
and so you are  
already blessed.  
You have been seen,

and so you are  
the blessing.

There is no other word  
you need.

There is simply  
to go  
and tell.

There is simply  
to begin.

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Today is the day for which we've been waiting—today is Resurrection Day! Give thanks to God for all that Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection mean for each one of us! And today you get two songs to expand the celebration! One is more reflective and full of gratitude—*Because He Lives* by Matt Maher— and one is pure celebration—*My Beloved* by Crowder! Take what you need from this reading and this offering of music to you on this glorious day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQk7RQg5p3k>