

Waiting Together in Holy Darkness

Reflection for Week of April 6, 2020

This Holy Week we wait with all the world in the darkness of the unknown.
As we recall Jesus waiting alone in profound darkness, we wait with openness, trusting that the darkness of these times is fecund.

Suggested music: "Holy Darkness" by Dan Schutte ([click here](#))

[When it was evening] Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. - Matthew 26:36-40



O dark dark dark. They all go into the dark...
I said to my soul, be still, and let the dark come upon you
Which shall be the darkness of God. As, in a theatre,
The lights are extinguished, for the scene to be changed
With a hollow rumble of wings, with a movement of darkness on darkness,
And we know that the hills and the trees, the distant panorama
And the bold imposing facade are all being rolled away--
... Or when, under ether, the mind is conscious but conscious of nothing--
I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.
Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.
-- TS Eliot, "The Four Quartets"

For Your Reflection:

Our call as women religious in these times includes working to see the deeper invitation that the pandemic is providing. How might we be conscious of the transformation occurring within ourselves, our communities, the nation, and the global community as we live through this time? Reflecting and perhaps journaling with the following questions and, if possible, engaging in contemplative dialogue on them may be one of the most important contributions we can make as women religious in this challenging time.

How has it been for you to enter the holy darkness of these times? To what might this darkness be inviting you/us?

How do you keep yourself grounded as you wait in the unknowing?



Concluding Prayer

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Amen.
-- Ephesians 3:20