

# Hope Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 25, 2020



Holden Prayer Around the Cross - Susan Briehl and Tom Witt  
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*Karla Hauwitt*

*People enter in silence and in near-darkness and wait. When all are gathered and silence has deepened and taken root, the musicians may lead the assembly into a chant or another appropriate song.*

## **GATHERING**

### ***In Silence We Wait***

Singing our Prayer 17  
sung six times

*During the singing, a large lighted candle may be carried in and placed in a stand.*

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "come to us; bring us your light." The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with rests.

Text and music: Susan Masters

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### ***Brief pause***

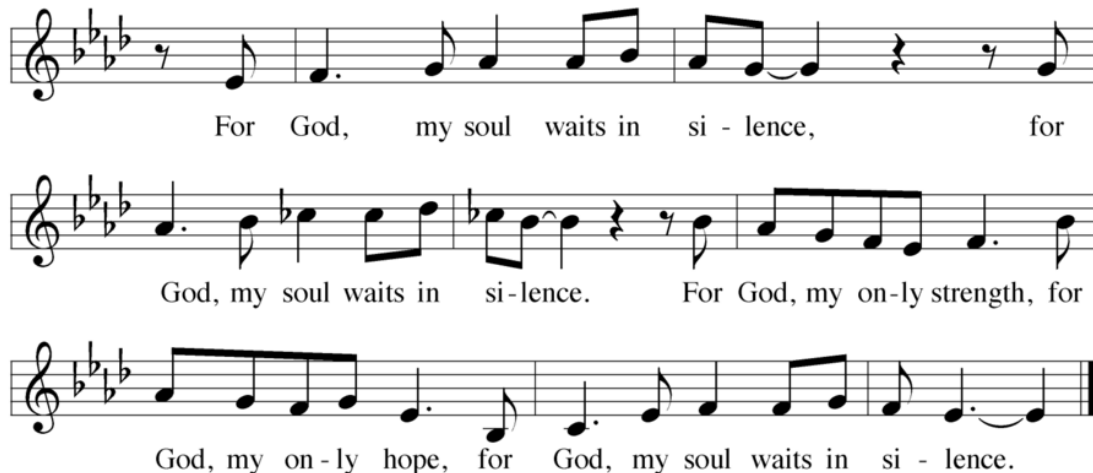
P: We gather in prayer around the cross. The room will remain darkened as we listen to scripture and sing our prayer. The songs are simple and quickly learned.

When it is time, you will be invited to kneel or sit by the cross, light a candle, and pray. After the final blessing, you may remain here in prayer. When you leave, do so quietly. We are now invited into prayer and song.

### ***Brief pause***

**For God, My Soul Waits In Silence**

Singing our Prayer 11  
*sung 2x*



For God, my soul waits in si - lence, for  
God, my soul waits in si - lence. For God, my on - ly strength, for  
God, my on - ly hope, for God, my soul waits in si - lence.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, based on Psalm 62

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P: For God alone we wait in silence, at the close of the day, in near-darkness  
To God alone we pour out our hearts, with simple songs and wordless prayers.

**For God, My Soul Waits In Silence** Singing our Prayer 11, sung 2x

P: For God alone we wait in silence, in the company of strangers and friends.  
To God alone we pour out our hearts, kneeling or sitting beside the cross.

**For God, My Soul Waits In Silence** Singing our Prayer 11, sung 2x

P: For God alone we wait in silence, lighting a candle and watching its flame.

*Silence is kept*

**WORD**

*The silence comes to a close when the leader begins the reading. Following each section of reading, the congregation sings.*

P: The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (*Romans 8:26-27*)

**Listen**

SP 25  
sung four times



*The leader may call out other words to replace “Listen, listen.”*

Text and music: Bret Hesla  
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P: How often we are without words. Our need and longing are deep, but we do not know what to say to one another, much less to God. Sometimes we fear we won’t “get it right” when we pray. So, here in this place we offer our whole selves as a prayer: our breathing and our sighing, our singing and our silence. Then we cling to the promise that the Spirit of the living Christ hears those prayers and prays for us, in us, and through us.

**Listen**

SP 25  
sung three times



*The leader may call out other words to replace “Listen, listen.”*

Text and music: Bret Hesla  
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**HOMILY – Psalm 139**

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.  
Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

*A time of silence is kept for reflection upon the word. The silence comes to a close with the invitation to come to the cross.*

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption. Come to the cross as beloved children of God in whom the Spirit dwells. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.  
Come, you who are troubled or in distress, you whose burdens are great, whose faith is weak. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.  
Come, you who cry out with the whole creation for redemption and renewal. The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.  
Come, you who do not know what to ask or how to pray. The Spirit intercedes with

sighs too deep for words.

When the music begins again, you are invited to come to the cross and pray. There is no rush, let time slow down. Come alone or with another. Light a candle as a sign of the light no darkness can overcome. Join in singing the simple chants as we surround one another with prayer and light. Let the music speak to you as you listen to God's voice speaking from those around you. Come when you feel drawn.

## PRAYER AT THE CROSS

*Songs and chants are sung while people gather at the cross to pray.*

### *To You, All Hearts Are Open*

**SP 43**  
***sung six times***

To you all hearts are o-pen, to you all de-sires known. To  
you there are no se-crets, \*al-might-y God; we come to you.

*\* or, "O loving God," "O living God"*

Text: John Tirro, based on a traditional collect  
Music: John Tirro

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**Still Waters**

SP 38  
sung six times

Still wa-ters re - store my soul.      Calm wa-ters re -

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1). The bass line starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1).

vive my spir - it.      Still wa - ters re -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff has a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1). The bass line has a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1).

store my soul.      My cup o - ver - flows.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff has a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1). The bass line has a half note chord (F2, C3), a quarter note (G2), a quarter note (F2), a quarter note (E2), a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1).

Text and music: Rolf Vegdahl, based on Psalm 23

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

*When the prayers around the cross have come to a natural close and the music has ended, a silence is kept. Then the leader gathers the prayers, commending them into God's hands.*

P: Let us pray. . .

God of all compassion, you have bound yourself to us in love stronger than death and deeper than tongues can tell. Gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and peace of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING

P: God all mighty, God most merciful bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Go in peace or remain to pray.

*The room stays quiet and dark until all have finished praying. Music may continue a short-time after the dismissal or may end, leaving people to pray in silence.*

### **Bring Your Best**

SP4

*sing three times, voices only on last time*



Bring your best to our worst, bring your peace to our pain.



Text: John L. Bell, alt.

Music: Tom Witt

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