

Station 7:(darkness, hiding)

Jesus is put in tomb

Scripture: Matt. 27: 57-60

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.



Sometimes, when we have hidden ourselves, gone into the pit, a tomb of grief and pain, we feel like God is not present or silent. This cocoon has God's fingers wrapped around it. What does that tell us about the Question "Is the Lord among us?"



This is an expert from an interview with Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor about darkness in 2014

In Genesis, darkness existed before God even got to work as a primal substance. Everything was made by God from dark. In Exodus, God promises to come to Moses on Mount Sinai in a dense or dark cloud. Here, darkness is divine and where God dwells. Abraham meets God in the darkness, Jacob wrestles an angel in the middle of the night, and angels announcing Christ's birth to the shepherds at night. There's so much that happens in the dark that is essential to the Christian story.

Linguistically, it's the pits. Narratively, it is a different story.

Darkness is everything I do not know, cannot control, and am often afraid of. But that's just the beginner's definition. If I am a believer in God, then darkness is also where God dwells. God may also be frightening and uncontrollable and largely unknown to me, yet I decide to trust God anyway.

[Christians] equate full solar spirituality with hope. But there's plenty of hope in the dark too. And [Christians] also equate darkness with depression and fear. But there's a lot of healing and liberation in the dark.

I cannot sell out the Christian message, which at its heart says that when the bottom drops out and you're screaming your guts out at God, there's more. It says that if you are willing to enter the cloud of unknowing and meet God in the dark—maybe even the dark of a tomb—you might be in for a surprise.

The great hope in the Christian message is not that you will be rescued from the dark but if you are able to trust God all the way into the dark, you may be surprised.

Dan Schutte Holy Darkness Lyrics

Refrain

Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

1. I have tried you in fires of affliction;
I have taught your soul to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness,
there I will plant my seed.

2. I have taught you the price of compassion;
you have stood before the grave.
Though my love can seem
like a raging storm,
this is the love that saves.

3. Were you there
when I raised up the mountains?
Can you guide the morning star?
Does the hawk take flight
when you give command?
Why do you doubt my pow'r?

4. In your deepest hour of darkness
I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit,
will my riches fill your soul.

5. As the watchman waits for morning,
and the bride awaits her groom,
so we wait to hear your footsteps
as we rest beneath your moon.

Which one speaks to you?

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2Samuel 22:29 You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness in to light.

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Interactive directions:

Think about a time when you were in a tomb, cocoon, the pit.

How long were you there? Did you feel God's presence or did you feel abandoned?

What changed for you when you emerged?

***LENT actually comes from an Old English word for Spring that means "the lengthening of days." It is an opportunity to rediscover the light of Christ in us and to remember that we are transformed in the darkness.**

1.If you have seeds or a bulb to plant, sink it into the dark soil to symbolize life that comes with the lengthening days and light.

If you don't have seeds, you can try growing a veggie from in water, from one of the ideas at this site

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/arielknutson/vegetables-that-magically-regrow-themselves>

Light a candle as a symbol of the light shining in spite of the darkness, the light you carry into the world.

Closing Prayer

God above, as you suffered your son lying in the tomb, we thank you for being with us as we suffer losses and trials in our own lives. Grant us your everlasting love and faith to be able to live through times of sorrow, bewilderment and hurt, and emerge in the light promised by the Resurrection.

by Barb



**We are transformed by the
time in the darkness and
emerge to carry the light.**

**Have a blessed
Easter**

