

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Progressive in Approach and Christlike in Action!

November 13th, 2022

Darkness and Cocooning

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Prelude: Moonlight Mood: W.L.Gillock

Prayer: Blessed Breath of Life, the months of longer darker days are upon us again. Breathe new life upon us, urging our wandering through the underworld where bulbs and seeds sleep in fertile ground. Open our eyes that we might see Mystery residing in this sacred time.

As we slow our activities, may we see you in the depths of darkness where you open your treasures to us. You invite us to enter a cocoon where your Love wraps us gently and in the shadows we strip away all that encumbers us from becoming our true and most vibrant selves. Then with renewed purpose, may we tend our broken earth, those who feel themselves outcast, lighten the paths of the weary and lead all in joyful peaceful dance to you.

Reading: *When Death Comes*
by **Mary Oliver**

When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse

to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox

when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,

I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,

and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,

and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,

and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

Reflection: Darkness and Gestation - Sharon Willan

Song: All Our Dying Shares a Process



1. All our dy - ing shares a pro - cess which u - nites us in - to one.
2. What re - mains is clothed in mys - t'ry like the jour - ney pil - grims trace.
3. We will prac - tise let - ting go - now to pre - pare us for our death.



As the bound - ries change to sing - ing cos - mic songs that still are sung.
What re - mains is sa - cred life - force found in all of time and space.
While en - joy - ing sa - cred pres - ence in each hour we live on Earth.



All di - vi - sions then have end - ed, all our sta - tus is de - stroyed,
In that sa - cred - ness dwells wis - dom, sens - ing mys - t'ry forms our home,
Praise the God of cos - mic pro - cess, Praise the God with - in our breath,



All our wealth shall then be worth - less, all our powers be ren - dered void.
As our life - force finds re - fresh - ment in the plac - es where we roam.
Praise the re - a - wak - ened liv - ing, that e - merg - es from each death.

The prayer attributed to Jesus

**As rendered by Mark Hathaway (www.visioncraft.org)
based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz
(www.abwoon.com - *Prayers of the Cosmos*)**

O Source of the Radiance,
dancing in and about all-that-is,
Shine forth into the depths of our beings,
and enkindle there the flame of your essence.
Grant that it may blaze forth
and fill us with its searing creativity,
Until, fully united with your fiery desire,
light pours out from us, taking form.
May we be revitalized each day
with nourishment for body and spirit,
And be liberated from all that oppresses us,
as we struggle to mend the fabric of our world.
Let us not be enmeshed in the nets of illusion,
but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.
For from you shine forth
the precepts, the sustenance, and the generative fire,
from centring to centring. Amen.

Postlude: O Holy Darkness, Loving Womb

OFFERINGS:

There are several ways to ensure that we are able to continue meeting our commitments.

You can mail in your offerings:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1035 Wayne Drive
Newmarket, On. L3Y 2W9

You can sign up to our Preauthorized Remittance Program PAR
contact our Treasurer Sharon Smyth who will guide you

You can go to Holy Cross' **CanadaHelps** page to donate just follow the link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36983>

E-transfer

You can now transfer funds via email to:
holy.cross.donations@rogers.com