



EASTER III  
04.17.2021  
Presence

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**Prelude and Meditation – John and Orlando**

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**Welcome and Explanation – Amy Sens**

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For me, it is essential to have the inner peace and serenity of prayer in order to listen to the silence of God, which speaks to us, in our personal life and the history of our times, of the power of love.

-Adolfo Perez Esquivel

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**A Prayer**

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**Song – Walking After Midnight – Patsy Cline**

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I go out walkin' after midnight  
Out in the moonlight  
Just like we used to do, I'm always walkin'  
After midnight, searchin' for you

I walk for miles along the highway  
Well, that's just my way  
Of sayin' I love you, I'm always walkin'  
After midnight, searchin' for you

I stop to see a weepin' willow  
Cryin' on his pillow  
Maybe he's cryin' for me  
And as the skies turn gloomy  
Night winds whisper to me  
I'm lonesome as I can be

I go out walkin' after midnight  
Out in the moonlight  
Just hopin' you may be somewhere a-walkin'  
After midnight, searchin' for me

I stop to see a weepin' willow  
Cryin' on his pillow  
Maybe he's cryin' for me  
And as the skies turn gloomy  
Night winds whisper to me  
I'm lonesome as I can be

I go out walkin' after midnight  
Out in the starlight  
Just hopin' you may be somewhere a-walkin'  
After midnight, searchin' for me

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**Prayers of the People – Vaughn Vigil**

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**Reading One – Absence, Presence by Luisa I. Igloria**

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Every absence is an ancestor: speak to it,  
ignore it, feed it, turn it out of doors,  
it will not matter— It knows where you live,  
which side of the pillow you prefer in sleep,

where you buy eggs and milk and toilet paper. It knows whom you last kissed on the mouth, how you cried to read that poem written by your daughter, your bewilderment at the stroke after stroke of bad luck that came the year you decided to say I do to your green, unproven heart. The roses in the garden bloomed and withered, and then came back. *Dormant* doesn't mean dead, only sleeping. Winter is another form of absence, some say a kindness: substituting white after white for all the gutted fields before their softening in spring. Absence, presence— I bow to you my ancestors; I stoke the fire and save the bones for soup in these cold months when I am most reminded I am your kin.

### Announcements and Commission – Vaughn Vigil

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#### Song – God is Here – Fred Pratt Green

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God is here! As we your people  
Meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure  
What it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us  
Of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font and pulpit;  
Here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
Here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome  
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
Seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living  
To believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the Gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
All we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you,  
We adore you! We believe!

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#### A Story – John Repulski

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#### Reading Two: Luke 24:36b-48 – Vaughn Vigil

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Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

### **Song – Breathe on Me, Breath of God – Edwin Hatch**

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**1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love the way you love,  
and do what you would do.**

**2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with yours,  
to do and to endure.**

**3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
for all eternity.**

### **A Discussion – Amy Sens**

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#### **Community Conversation**

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**When has someone’s presence, whether in person or in a spiritual way, helped you to grow, to heal, or to change?**

#### **Prayer & Blessing – Amy Sens**

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### **Song – Hammer and a Nail – Indigo Girls**

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**1. Clearing webs from a hovel - a blistered hand on the handle of a shovel  
I've been digging too deep, I always do  
I see my face on the surface; I look a lot like Narcissus  
A dark abyss of an emptiness standing on the edge of a drowning blue**

I look behind my ears for the green,  
and even my sweat smells clean  
Glare off the white hurts my eyes  
Gotta get out of bed, get a hammer and a nail,  
learn how to use my hands;  
Not just my head, I'll think myself into jail;  
Now I know a refuge never grows  
from a chin in a hand in a thoughtful pose;  
Gotta tend the earth if you want a rose

2. I had a lot of good intentions;  
sit around for fifty years and then collect a pension  
Started seeing the road to hell and just where it starts  
But my life is more than a vision;  
the sweetest part is acting after making a decision  
I started seeing the whole as a sum of its parts

I look behind my ears for the green,  
and even my sweat smells clean  
Glare off the white hurts my eyes  
Gotta get out of bed, get a hammer and a nail, learn how to use my hands  
Not just my head, I'll think myself into jail; now I know a refuge never grows  
From a chin in a hand in a thoughtful pose  
Gotta tend the earth if you want a rose

3. My life is part of the global life; I'd found myself becoming more immobile  
When I'd think a little girl in the world can't do anything  
A distant nation my community, a street person my responsibility  
If I have a care in the world I have a gift to bring

I look behind my ears for the green, and even my sweat smells clean  
Glare off the white hurts my eyes  
Gotta get out of bed, get a hammer and a nail, learn how to use my hands  
Not just my head, I'll think myself into jail; now I know a refuge never grows  
From a chin in a hand in a thoughtful pose  
Gotta tend the earth if you want a rose

Dismissal – Vaughn Vigil

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