

April 15, 2020 ~Praying to Be One of God's Lights in Difficult Circumstances~

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16 ~ Teaching Jesus shared in His Sermon on The Mount.

Preface: This morning a dear friend, one who's moved away but will always be a beloved member of our church family, shared her experience of the sweetest encouragement from God during her quiet time this morning. She was reading in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 19:1b. "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God." As she read, bright sunshine illuminated God's true and holy words in the Bible she held in her hands

Precious Lord, when we seem to be running out of patience, ideas, direction or willingness, you always come through. You use someone or something to nudge us in the direction you want us to go. What an amazing God you are! When you give unexpected light to one of your children, that light is shared with many more who need light and direction in this pandemic darkness. How grateful we are to reflect your light in what we say or do!

Lord Jesus, you are not only the light of our world, but you are also the life of the world. Because our God created this world and all that's in it, all light emanates from him to all living things. Jesus you are like a candle, giving spiritual comfort and understanding. Your sinless life and resurrection were and still are the perfect examples that light the way to our own eternal life. Thank you for being a light in our present difficult circumstances, Lord. When we desperately need your light most, you shine on us.

There are so many of your people today letting your light shine through them:

All hospital workers, chaplains, and medical caregivers.

All first responders, law enforcement, and military personnel.

All food growers, producers and packagers.

All working in distribution centers filling orders and driving fork lifts.

All truckers, railroad workers, and delivery drivers.

All fuel stop and gasoline station attendants.

All grocery, pharmacy, and big box stockers, checkers, pharmacists, and cart sanitizing helpers.

All volunteers working in makeshift medical centers, production workshops, kitchens, and at 3D printers and sewing machines in homes across our nation.

All praying in virtual prayer vigils, in live stream worship services, and in quiet time places with you, God, in their homes.

All giving generously of time and what they don't need to help those in dire need.

We give you thanks for those people, for your length in them, and for the goodness they are doing.

We are so grateful, Heavenly Father for your light. You were surely waiting close by through all the ages for your children. When each saw, understood, and chose to follow your light out of their own spiritual darkness, your light grew brighter again and again. You are here with us now, not just in our nation, but all around the world. You are shining your light on us, and the light of Christ in us is the inspiration of all the goodness of your people helping other people. It's not our light but your light leading us to do good acts for the right reasons.

Holy and Almighty God of Light, your light is helping us know what we can do to bring goodness to those helping the suffering and restoration to those suffering from the isolation of sheltering and the financial crisis of job loss. We can share the warmth and comfort of your light in us. We are the light of the world only because The Light of The World shines through us in our thinking, our doing, and our witnessing.

We ask for your direction and willing hearts and hands to add your light to someone's darkness. In your precious and holy name, Jesus Christ, we ask that in our good deeds, your light, the Light of The World, would glorify our Father in Heaven. Amen.

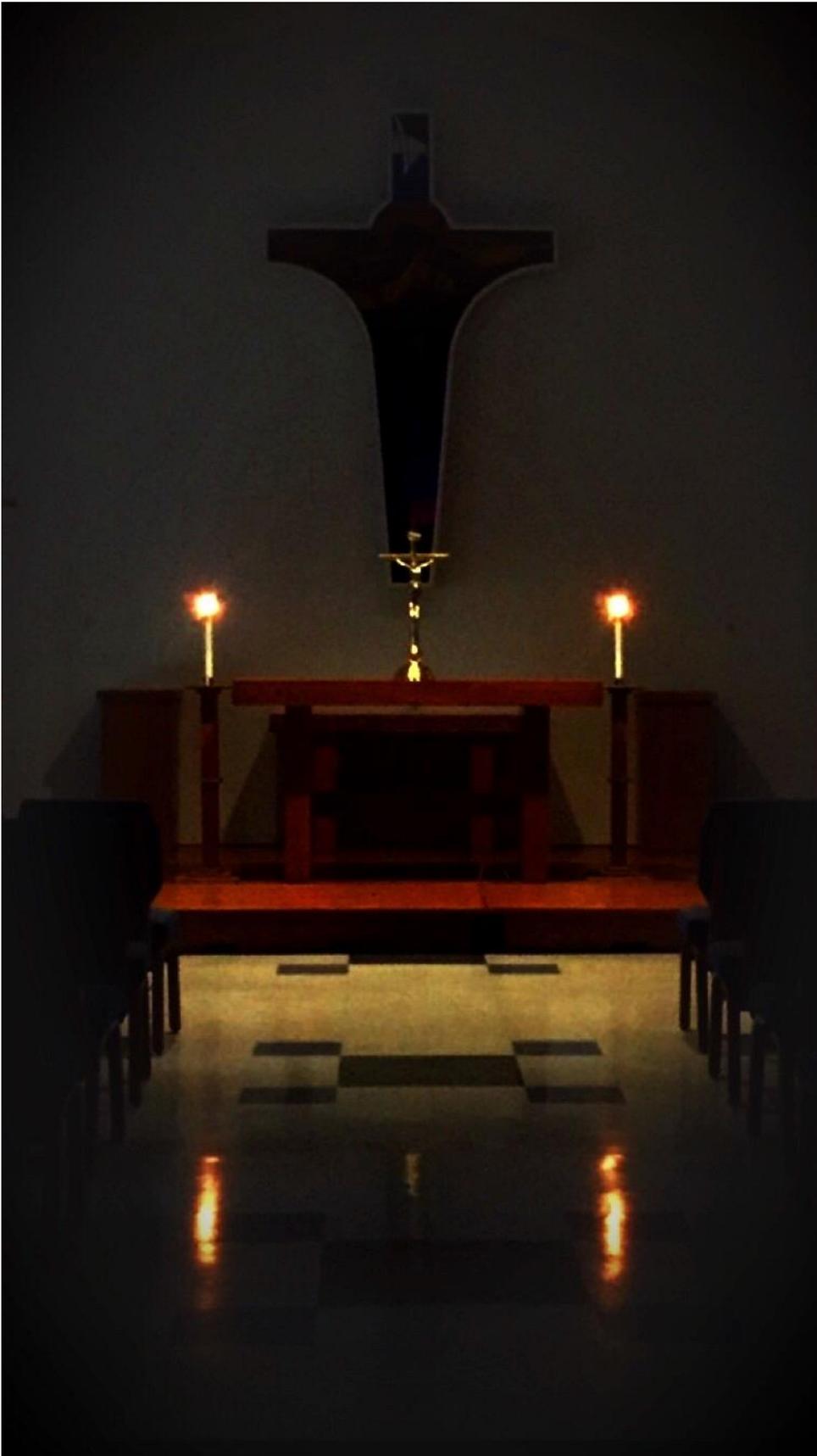


Photo taken Good Friday, 2019