

Week 1:

Tombs & Cocoons: Trusting the Dark

April 27, 2025

11:15am



ENTRANCE

Gathering & Welcome

***Preparing for New Life** Come Out
by Mark Miller

Call/Response:

Come out! Come out of your comfortable spaces
Come, meet Jesus in the difficult places

***Questions for Metamorphosis**

In the dark of the womb we wondered...

...what could be better than this warm and safe place?

Once we were birthed into this life, at times we

wondered...**could there be more than meets the eye?**

In the dark of the tomb-times of our existence we

wonder...**is there life beyond these constraints?**

When we hear the story of Jesus, we wonder...

...is new life possible for me?

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

**"You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life.
Again and again." Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

Hymn of Promise₁

UMH #707

by Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter,
there's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence seeking word & melody
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you & me
From the past will come the future,
What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning, in our time infinity
In our doubt, there is believing, in our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection
At the last, a victory
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see

***Passing the Peace**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

**Holy Spirit, shine your light upon your Word. May its wisdom
emerge, grow, and soar within us, creating us anew.
Amen.**

Scripture Lessons: Cocooning

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

John 19:38-20:1

Later, Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take the body of Jesus. (Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus, because he was afraid of some of the leaders.) Pilate

gave his permission, so Joseph came and took Jesus' body away. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, went with Joseph. He brought about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. These two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it with the spices in pieces of linen cloth, which is how they bury the dead. In the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. In the garden was a new tomb that had never been used before. The men laid Jesus in that tomb because it was nearby, and they were preparing to start their Sabbath day. Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark[, and] she saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb.

The Word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

The Word in Music

Holy Darkness

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Trusting the Dark

Rev. Jon Snape

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we come before you trying to accept more fully the beauty of darkness as a place where birth and resurrection begin. **Allow us to trust your timing for our lives—the timing for our full opening.**

Help us to experience times of cocooning as places where you are remaking us into that which you created us to be. **We pray to you now, for the ways in which we need to be remade.**

silence is kept

God, assures us that we are not alone. We are cradled in God's presence. Lord, help us to offer this reassurance to others.

Thanks be God, who makes all things new. Amen.

Praying with Jesus (The Lord's Prayer)

**Cocoon of Creation, in whom is heaven,
may your name be lifted in the chambers of our hearts.
May the joy of transformation come,
may your plans for us be unfurled here on earth
as it is in the flight of heaven's glory.
For the strength we need, feed us.
For the forgiveness we desire, and need to give, invite us.
Save us from the temptation
of all that would keep us from you,
and deliver us from those things that seek to harm.
Unwrap your perfect kinship
of love, power, and glory forever.
Amen.**

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

Offering & Offertory

***Easter Doxology**

UMH #94

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH pages 15-16

Receiving Bread and Cup

SENDING FORTH

Prayer After Receiving

Thank you, loving God, for sharing yourself with us.
May your presence emerge from within us,
offering hope and new life to those we encounter in the
world. Amen.

*Dismissal with Blessing

*Closing Hymn

Hymn of Promise¹
Natalie Sleeth

UMH #707

In the bulb, there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter,
there's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see



1. Hymn of Promise

CCLI Song # 126529, License # 809798, Streaming # 20212161

Natalie Sleeth

© Words: 1986 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1986 Hope Publishing Company