

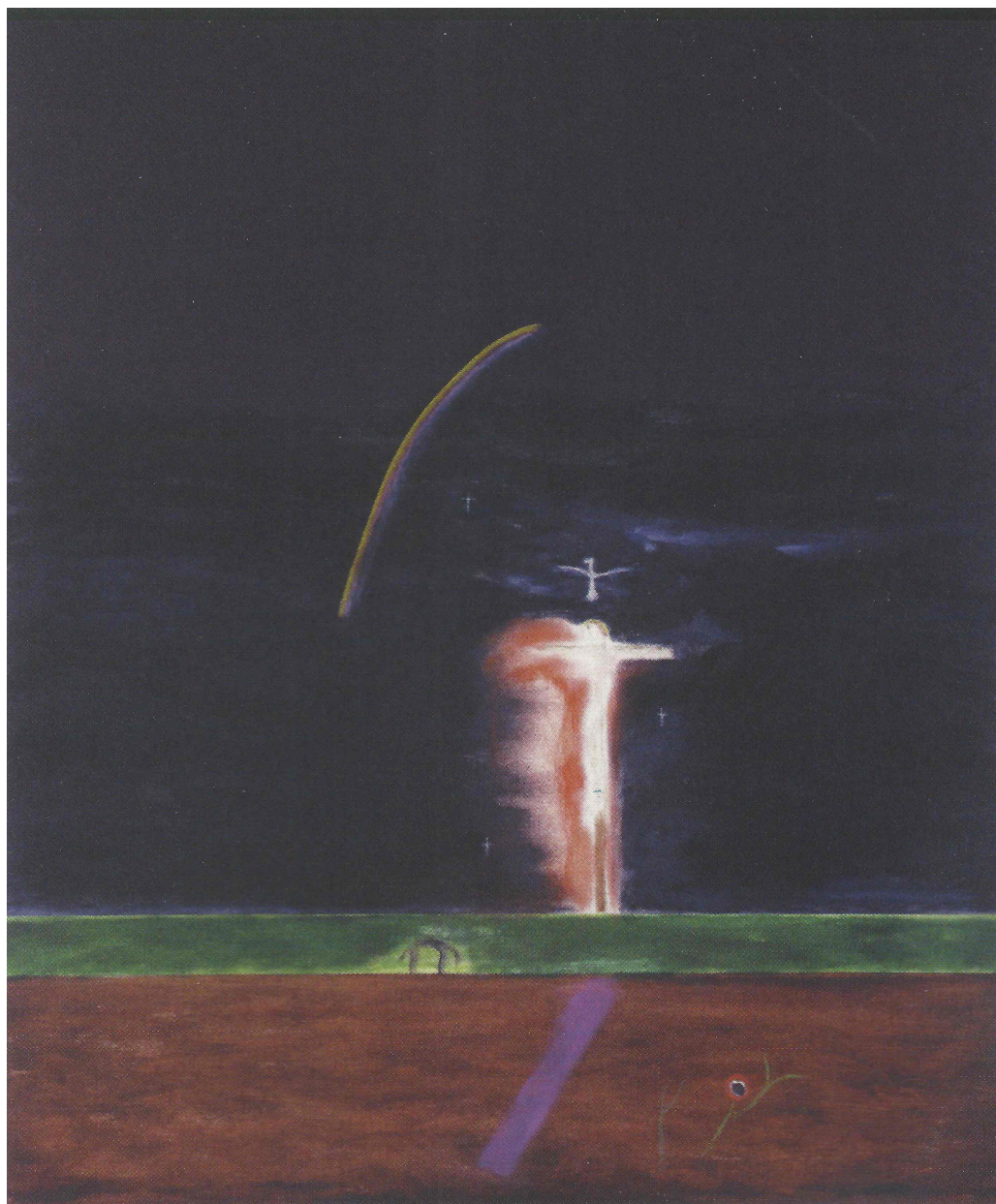
Daily Morning Prayer
During the Last Two Weeks of Lent

Passiontide Promise



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community



On Good Friday - reflection by David

*O, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do (C F Alexander)*

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.


Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
May we walk this day in the way of the cross
and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.


**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;**


(Taizé community)


Friday Part of Psalm 69 and a reading from Romans


1 Save me, O God, 
for the waters have come up, even to my neck.


2 I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold; 
I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.


3 I have grown weary with crying; my throat is raw; 
my eyes have failed from looking so long for my God.

4 Those who hate me without any cause 
are more than the hairs of my head;

5 Those who would destroy me are mighty; 
my enemies accuse me falsely:
must I now give back what I never stole?

6 O God, you know my foolishness, 
and my faults are not hidden from you.

7 Let not those who hope in you
be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts; 
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,
O God of Israel.


8 For your sake have I suffered reproach; 
shame has covered my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my kindred, ♦
an alien to my mother's children.

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; ♦
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

11 I humbled myself with fasting, ♦
but that was turned to my reproach.

12 I put on sackcloth also ♦
and became a byword among them.

13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, 
and the drunkards make songs about me.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5.6-8

Reflection

So we have arrived at this desolate day. For those surrounding Jesus, this was the end of the journey. We try to imagine ourselves standing at the foot of the cross. How do we feel as Mother Mary? How do we feel as beloved John?

The image I have chosen here is from Sister Wendy Beckett's book "The Art of Lent". It is "Crucifixion" by Craigie Aitchison. Here the world is reduced to its barest essentials - the dark earth, the green hill in which the cross is planted. The figure on the cross is not depicted in the usual way of many paintings, with some sense of human realism, but instead with a sense of the universal realism "a luminous body blazing with the fire of love" as Sister Wendy puts it. Here is the passionate sacrifice we have been leading up to in our way of the cross. See the image of the dove (also as a cross) hovering above Christ on the cross. Even the stars in the sky look like crosses. And the arc of a shooting star, or some other galactic phenomenon. In the foreground, a lone poppy flowers. An animal (probably Aitchison's dog) sniffs the ground.

In the Garden of Gethsemane the night before, Jesus accepted the will of God for him. He fulfils now all that God demands of him. He is living who God wants him to be. Even in his death on the cross.

"How do you expect to reach your perfection by leading someone else's life? His sanctity will never be yours; you must have the humility to work out your own salvation in a darkness where you are absolutely alone.

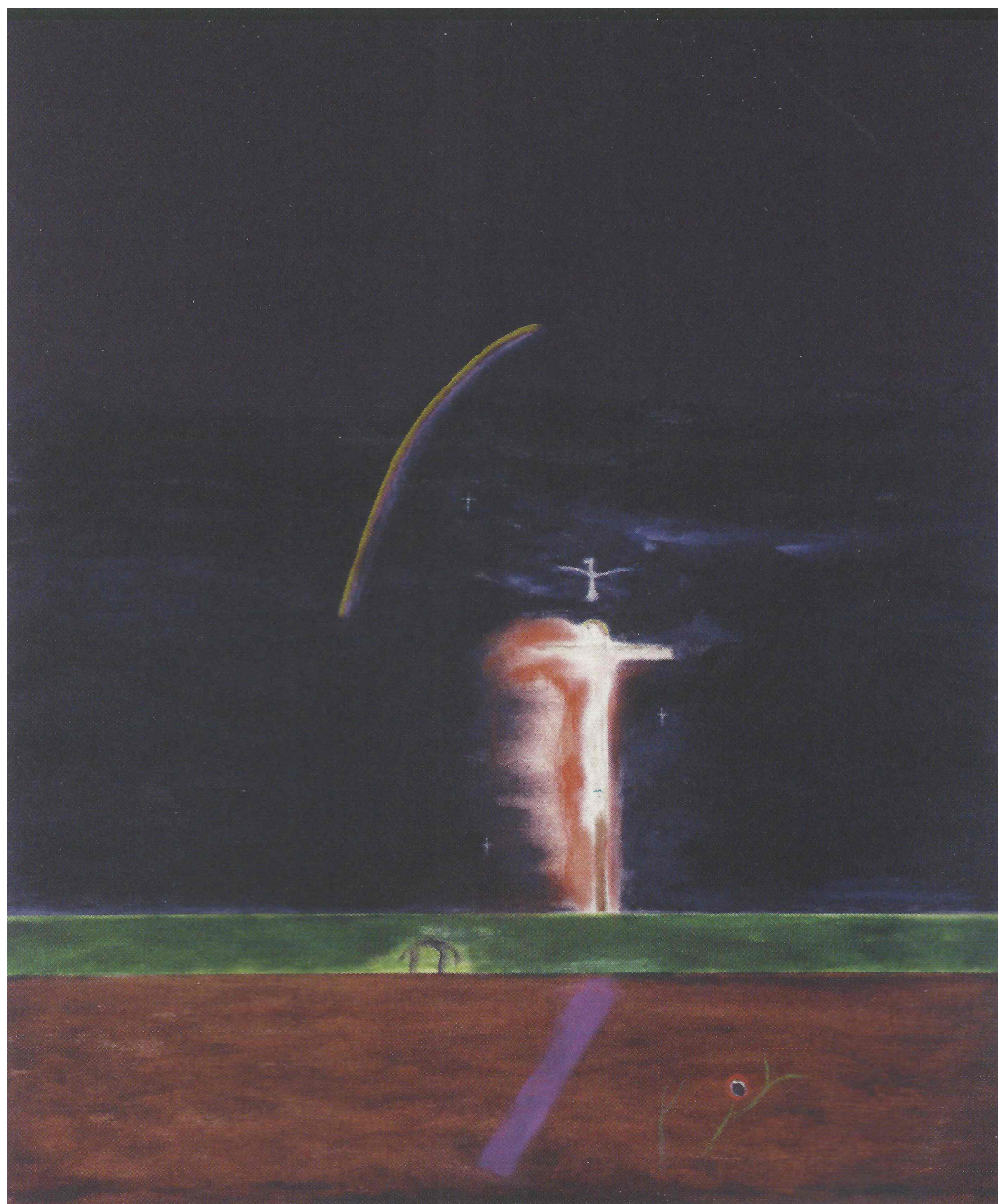
"Many poets are not poets for the same reason that many religious men are not saints: they never succeed in being themselves. They never get around to being the particular poet or the particular monk they are intended to be by God. They never become the man or the artist who is called for by all the circumstances of their individual lives."

Are we being who God wants us to be?

"Always we begin again" is the motto of Benedictine monks. Merton was a Trappist - a particular branch of the Benedictines that values quite and contemplation and isolation. We can use this special time to reflect on how we have said yes to God and always begin again. From today's reading from Romans: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

We move to the two stations for today using beautiful realistic images in monochrome by Ally Barrett.

David Parry-Smith





Good Friday: XI Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross

*See, as they strip the robe from off his back
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.
But here a pure change happens. On this tree
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free,
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height,
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true,
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light,
We see what love can bear and be and do.
And here our Saviour calls us to his side,
His love is free, his arms are open wide.*

Malcolm Guite



XII Jesus dies on the cross

*The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black
We watch him as he labours to draw breath.
He takes our breath away to give it back,
Return it to its birth through his slow death.
We hear him struggle, breathing through the pain,
Who once breathed out his spirit on the deep,
Who formed us when he mixed the dust with rain
And drew us into consciousness from sleep.
His Spirit and his life he breathes in all,
Mantles his world in his one atmosphere,
And now he comes to breathe beneath the pall
Of our pollutions, draw our injured air
To cleanse it and renew. His final breath
Breathes and bears us through the gates of death.*







Malcolm Guite

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.
By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, 
who has come to his people and set them free.
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, 
born of the house of his servant David.
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old 
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
4 To show mercy to our ancestors, 
and to remember his holy covenant.
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6 Free to worship him without fear, 
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

With faith and love and in union with Christ,
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life:

God of love, hear our prayer

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

God of love, hear our prayer

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil:

God of love, hear our prayer

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:
God of love, hear our prayer

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:
God of love, hear our prayer

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:
God of love, hear our prayer

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Collect – Holy Week:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements:

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