

# TAU APRIL 2020

The Province of the Pacific, Third Order Society of St Francis

## Happy Resurrection!

After Jesus died, the women went to Jesus' tomb. It was,

**E**mpy, how

**A**mazing, they were

**S**urprised! It was the

**T**hird Day after his death, how

**E**xtraordinary! Jesus had

**R**isen! Alleluia!



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Tau will be published monthly for the time being so we can keep it touch and enjoy each others stories during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please send any articles that would interest us about your area events or other Franciscan happenings in time for the next issue to

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## From the Minister General...



Let us give thanks  
To the God  
Met in the resurrected Jesus  
Who says our name  
And invites us to live  
not in dark and sin and death  
But overwhelmed in God's light, love and life

For everything begins today.  
We have seen the Lord  
Hope is reborn  
Compassion renewed  
Justice announced  
Love reigns.  
With this empty tomb  
the revolution begins.  
God is not defeated  
Even in lock-down.



Based on John 20:1012 and from the reflection "It began in God (Easter 2020)"

by John Hebenton tssf

May you know God's peace and goodness as we continue to wonder what life will look like outside our tombs this Covid-19 Easter.

John Hebenton TSSF.

John Hebenton TSSF  
Minister General  
Third Order, Society of Saint Francis.

## INTIMACY – THE MESSAGE OF EASTER

*I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.*  
John 20:17 RSV

### **Prior to the Resurrection.**

The Scriptures had foretold that God would send them a leader, a Messiah, who would save his people Israel. The disciples followed Jesus because they believed that Jesus was that leader. However, they did not understand how Jesus would achieve this purpose. Although the Scriptures had talked of a suffering servant, Jesus had hinted about his suffering and dying and John the Baptist had spoken of Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb, they did not comprehend. Jesus spoke continually of His Father, but they did not know the Father, nor did they know the plan of the Father which Jesus was to follow. They showed this lack of understanding when near his death they focused on precedence and the role that each would play when Jesus established his kingdom. In other words, they saw his kingdom in mainly secular terms. Therefore, in spite of their professions of loyalty, his arrest and trial were a great shock to them. They could not face it. They all deserted him and ran away. Peter by his words actually disowned him.

### **After the Resurrection.**

By His passion, death and resurrection, Jesus had fulfilled perfectly all that His Father purposed for Him. Now after His resurrection He speaks of a new relationship with His disciples and all that were to follow Him. The first words that He speaks as the risen Christ are to Mary Magdalene in the garden outside the empty tomb. His word “Mary” is followed by a rapturous reception. Without any deprecation of this action, he continues “Go and tell my brethren that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” These words are explosive because they announce a new and breathtaking promise to the disciples. They are to share the same intimate relationship which Jesus has with His Father, a relation exemplified by his sacrificial love and his perfect unity with the Father. The way is now open to all who follow Jesus to enjoy a close and intimate relationship with the Father. It gives a deeper and richer meaning

to the “Our Father” in the Lord’s Prayer.

## **The coming of the Holy Spirit**

But we cannot on our own sustain this relationship. The Holy Spirit is promised by Jesus before His death and afterwards is given to the disciples at Pentecost following his Ascension. Now given to everyone who receives Christ, it is the spirit of Jesus which upholds us in following the way that He trod and enables us to continue in His relationship with the Father. In Jesus’ words the Spirit is to lead us into all truth and remind us of everything that that he taught and did.

As Jesus opened the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and in the Upper Room, so through the Holy Spirit He opens the Scriptures to us. To the disciples the Scriptures would be the Old Testament only.



To us the Scriptures include the New Testament, which is the new revelation of God’s purpose as imparted and recorded by the apostles and disciples. The Spirit in revealing the Scriptures to us is acting in perfect unity with the Father and with Jesus Our Lord. In this way and in all our Christian life, it is fulfilling God’s purpose through the Trinity, three Persons in one God, to bring all humankind back into an intimate relationship with God.

## **Intimacy through Prayer.**

Prayer in which we are guided by the Holy Spirit is integral to sustaining an intimate relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. In our prayer we need to recognise that this relationship with God is open only through the passion and death of Jesus on the cross. So our prayer is always in the name of Jesus, namely “through Jesus Christ Our Lord”. But how does Jesus tell us how to pray? He tells us to ask and to keep on asking, and he promises that whatever we ask in His name he will give it to us. The words “in his name” qualify the petition in two ways. The prayer is to be offered through Jesus Christ and also to be in accord with his will and for his glory. The purpose of the prayer is not to secure our own needs (though this is not excluded) but to grow into an intimate relationship with the Father through Jesus. The more we grow in this relationship, the less we will need to ask

because we will understand more clearly what God requires of us and our prayers will include more thanksgiving and praise.

Intimacy with God through Christ is inseparable from Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you." The measure of this love is seen in the passion and death of Our Lord on the cross. Therefore taking up the cross and following him is the way we demonstrate love for others. This is obviously not a literal imitation, but the Holy Spirit will make clear what burdens we are to bear in carrying out his commandment to love and will also give us the strength to bear them.

Love is not just the welling up of natural affection. It is a fruit of the Spirit given to us when we accept Jesus as Lord. Scripturally it is described as putting off the old man and the putting on of the new. It signifies a change of heart and mind, recognised in baptism, but also a continuous process in the Christian life and essential for growth in intimacy with God. Paul, for example, says that we die daily. At Easter we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Our Lord. In our own lives we die to those things which are contrary to Christ; in the resurrection we rise to the new life in Christ.

### **Intimacy through service.**

Intimacy is not to be sought for our own reasons. It is not just for us to enjoy His fellowship here and hereafter. We are to take up His cross. The Lord's prayer says "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The new life we are given and the gift of the Holy Spirit are to enable us to live in this world so that this prayer may be fulfilled. Jesus just before he died revealed his purpose for all those who are called to follow him. "You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you so that you may go and bear fruit and that the fruit may abide." This promise is reinforced by the fruitfulness of nature which is evident on every side. Not only does Jesus call and prepare us but His purpose for us is fruitfulness and we are assured that whatever is done in His name will not be in vain.

But how will such obedience avail when we are up against the powers of evil? Jesus was kind and gentle but he was not ineffectual. He faced the force of evil, bore it on the cross and overcame it by his obedience to the Father's purpose. All those who follow him are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the same. As He did, we pray for those who oppose us. Where

there is evil, we hold it up before God for his forgiveness though his blood shed and his body broken upon the cross. In his sacrifice on the cross there is healing not just for us but for all the world. In the Holy Spirit there is power to forgive and to heal. There are forces in the world, powers and principalities which corrupt and vitiate all our relationships, but in the cross there is power to overcome them.

Then we come to the question. If this power is not used, is it because God has no power to overcome evil? Or does the answer lie in us?

## **Intimacy and faith**

Intimacy is God's purpose, but our reception of it depends on our faith, and our faith depends on the love we have for God. Love for God is measured by our awareness of what he has done for us. The prostitute who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears did this because she knew how much he had done for her. Simon the Pharisee loved Jesus little because he felt he did not need forgiveness, even though he belonged to a social class that was noted for its piety. So our faith is dependent on our realisation that we need forgiveness. Jesus said he was not come to call the righteous but sinners. Those who are well need not the physician but those who are sick. The goodness that we assume, sometimes by comparing ourselves with others, may act as a barrier which prevents God from working through us.

## **Summary.**

Jesus promises to us the same intimacy with the Father that He enjoys. It is a stupendous almost unbelievable promise which is only possible because of the action of the Father in sending his Son to die on the cross for our redemption. We are able to enjoy this intimacy through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit which opens to us the Scriptures.

Easter is central to our faith because it remembers and celebrates the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord. It also inspires us to follow the same process of dying and rising again in our own lives, and through the the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into greater intimacy with the Father through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chris Barfoot  
Easter 2020

## Lockdown and Bubbles?

We've reached the end of our level 4 lockdown – four and a half weeks. At times it seemed to go on forever and at other times it just flashed by. Many of you have been in bubbles of 1 or 2. My bubble has been one of 10 people, four generations ranging in age from 92 to 2, and a very energetic young border collie. Whatever the size of your bubble I should imagine there have been times of blessing and times of immense challenge.

Four weeks ago I was full of plans about what I was going to achieve – sort out my much-too-full email inbox, create photo books for trips I have been on, go through the piles of paper in my study and reduce 'stuff'. . . the list was quite long and included creating a daily 'diary' of the online help I received from friends and acquaintances to help me through this unprecedented time - poems and prayers, articles, jokes, cartoons, online sites to visit . . .

Today I wonder how it can be that I have achieved so little.

Somewhere in week three everything just became too hard and I couldn't even open my computer for over a week except to join some already programmed zoom meetings. Recently, when I started looking at emails again, I realised the messages were changing. I was not alone in finding myself overwhelmed and doing very little. People in my bookgroup zoom meeting talked about not wanting to do the things they had always loved – gardening, reading, meditating.

An article I read talked about people going through a 'collective trauma' – a trauma which is bringing up profound grief, loss, panic over livelihoods, trying to survive poverty, fear, and mental health difficulties. *People's nervous systems, it suggested, are barely coping with the sense of threat and vigilance for safety, or alternating with feeling numb and frozen and shutting down in response to it all.* The article went on to say that the enormity of this pandemic and the global shutdown over it weighs heavy on all of us. Our sense of normality has been turned upside down and the uncertainty over even what the near future holds makes sustained attention a challenge.

The Gospel reading from Luke today is the story of the two followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus. When Jesus joined them and asked what they were discussing as they walked along, the Gospeller tells us 'they stood still, looking sad.' In her reflection on this today, my vicar suggested that possibly the reason they just 'stood still looking sad' was that they were traumatised by the events which had taken place in Jerusalem. And the response of the Risen Christ to the trauma of Cleopas and his friend was to walk alongside them. As we journey through this collective trauma, the Risen Christ is there to walk beside us.

Pip Colgan

## **PRAYERS**

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing  
be healing in our sickness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.

For Jesus' sake. Amen

*Very Rev'd Andrew Nunn*

Pray for those in refugee camps and Manus island and other displaced people who have been in a form of "lock down" for many years and in this time also have very limited medical facilities.....

Give thanks for ANZAC Day this year and for the people who joined with others spiritually, even though we couldn't honour it as we usually do.





# Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The global efforts to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus have affected all of us, and Franciscans International has been no exception. On 13 March, the UN Human Rights Council suspended its 43<sup>rd</sup> session until further notice and other upcoming meetings at the United Nations have been postponed. Meanwhile, the current travel restrictions will likely affect the ability of our grassroots partners to join us in Geneva and New York.

Nevertheless, respect and realization of human rights will be essential in combatting the Covid-19 crisis. Access to [water](#), decent [housing](#), and an inclusive approach that considers the rights of populations already disadvantaged and marginalized like [migrants](#) – all priorities for Franciscans International – will be key to success. Regardless of these challenging circumstances we will continue our work to make Franciscan values heard at the UN, now and in the future.

With our best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Markus Heinze OFM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Markus Heinze OFM  
*Executive Director*

## ***A Prayer before meditation***

*sent in by Thea*

*There is a love holding us,  
There is a love holding all we love,  
There is a love holding all.*

*We rest in this love.*

## The Allure of Saint Francis in this Generation

When we are getting to know a new Aspirant or Novice, we often ask them, “What drew you to Saint Francis?” The answers are many and varied. So, I was very interested to read an ‘insiders’ reply from Brother Ramon SSF, and Anglican monk of note, on recent times on just this question.

In the introduction to this very little book in the Lion Publishing series “The Wisdom of...”, (each offering thirty short readings for meditation for a month). Brother Ramon specifies four things about the spirituality of Francis that the Saint offers to the world of the church and beyond.

1. Francis was a man of Jesus, intoxicated and enamoured by the love, joy, and wonder of the living Jesus. It radiated from Francis to such an extent that he entered into a mystical union with his Lord, witnessed to by the stigmata on his body in later years.
2. Francis was a man of simplicity in genuine integrity, who identified with the poor Jesus. He was convinced of the spiritual riches of love and joy. This left him free to share everything with all humanity and all creation.
3. Francis was a man of contemplation and prayer with a vision of the unity of all things in God. He showed how all God’s people could become instruments of God’s love to one another, with prayer as ‘the music of human life’.
4. Francis was a man of compassion while yet a possessor of great zeal, sharing tears and laughter within the ecstasies and sorrows of human life. People caught the intensity of the flame and the glory of his compassion and were attracted to his side by this. Not only people! Many are the stories of wild creatures (and wild men!) making peace through his influence.

I wonder what four qualities we would choose from the life of Saint Francis, as tertiaries. Maybe we don’t even identify them until we have walked alongside him for several years and come to realise the wisdom that he offers us for our lives today.

*Details of the book:*

*“The wisdom of Saint Francis” Compiled and introduced by Brother Ramon SSF  
Published by Lion Publishing, 1997 ISBN 0 7459 3644 X*

## THE DISCOVERY

Running madly through the night,  
Dark locks behind her flying,  
Such fearful banging on the door,  
Such tears, such eyes, such crying.

She was a prostitute, they said,  
Used to telling tales,  
A woman greatly over wrought,  
Not balanced like us males.

But wait, I thought, our Mary's  
changed,  
Her sins are all confessed,  
Forgiven most she gives the most,  
Of us she loved Him best.

I did not speak but seized my staff,  
Slipped out that door so fast,  
For sudden in my memory flashed  
The words he'd spoken last.

I heard the heavy feet behind  
And Peter breathing hard,  
A braver man I could not wish  
For fear was in my heart.

The wind was in our flying hair,  
The grey dawn in the sky,  
Only the pounding of our feet  
As the city wall raced by.

"We're in the garden now" I said,  
"There's soldiers all about,"  
But on no spears the dawn did glint,  
There came no warning shout.

I saw it then, the stone rolled back  
Which held the death tomb fast,  
Faint I felt and could not move,  
Wild throbbing seized my heart.

Big bumbling Peter did not pause  
But breathless stumbled on,  
Then white-faced he staggered back:  
"The master's body's gone!"

I forced myself to creep inside,  
And in death cave stood alone,  
When suddenly the day's first light  
Shone on the cold grey stone.

I saw the sheet upon the floor,  
And napkin from his head  
With blood upon it from the thorns  
Coiled neatly on a ledge.

I gazed and gazed and then my heart  
Leapt up in wild surmise,  
No other hands had coiled that cloth  
But dead hands now alive!

The sun rose up, the dewdrops danced  
The birds their anthems trilled,  
But greater sun had warmed my heart,  
With greater joy I thrilled.

I knew that He, God's Son, yet lived,  
And death like night had gone!  
And in my ears I heard his words  
You knew it first, friend John.

*Chris Barfoot*

## THE MINISTRY OF PRESENCE AMIDST FEARS AND UNCERTAINTIES

*Anthony Maelasi TSSF-Regional Minister-Solomon Islands Region*



*(Top photo) Sister Doreen Awaiasi of the Community of the Sisters of the Church and (Bottom photo) the team consisting of the Diocese of Malaita Trauma Counselling team (I am standing on the far right wearing the akubra), Malaita Provincial Government (the Premier himself was part of the team) and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.*

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April a tragic disaster happened off the coast of southern Malaita. One of the shipping vessels carrying more than 700 passengers was hit by strong waves caused by the tropical cyclone Harold (which went on to cause havoc in Vanuatu and Fiji).

Twenty seven people, mostly young people, were thrown overboard and lost their lives. After a few days of searching, six decomposed bodies were recovered and handed over to family members and relatives for proper burial.

As the Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Malaita, I then got a call to send a team of trauma counsellors from the diocese to visit the families and communities affected and do a trauma assessment of the situation. It was on Good Friday (exactly one week after the disaster) that we left Auki as part of the Malaita Provincial Government's delegation to the southern part of Malaita.

We managed to hold three sessions with families of the dead and victims who were onboard the ship during the disaster. Those affected were mostly Catholics and our presence as Anglicans spoke greatly of Christ's boundless love, compassion and healing. People's lives were touched and God indeed begun His healing process to those who were traumatized by the disaster.

Knowing fully well the significance of the task during Easter, we were constantly reminded of Christ's death, burial and resurrection as we shared with the people in their grief and loss. That alone brings hope and healing to the people.

As a tertiary, I was reminded of our service to others and the sacrifice we make so others may find peace and hope in God.

In the diocese, we have a safe refuge and shelter for victims of domestic violence and a counselling center. One of our plans is to have some of our tertiaries in Malaita area undergo training on basic trauma counselling to help out when the center is fully operational.

The need for more trained trauma counselors in Solomon Islands is overwhelming and it is our hope and prayer that more tertiaries will avail themselves as instruments to bring about hope and healing in a broken and dying world.

Pax et Bonum.

## Easter In 'Lockdown'

“Of all the festivals of Christianity, Easter is central to our Faith. It is all about LIFE-not just for today, but forever. It gives me a degree of sadness and uncertainty about Easter 2020, for we have all been confined to our homes, except, perhaps, for a stroll in the fresh air, avoiding contact with a fellow human being, except maybe our, almost human, cat or dog.

We will not be able to gather at our parish churches for the most special weekend of the year. It will be a weird day for Christians worldwide. A ray of hope, however, lies in the certainty that, in the not too distant future, Covid 19 will be defeated and the world can mourn its lost ones and grasp the fullness of life again and our Mission can kick start.

On that day we will have a kind of Resurrection from the deadness of “lockdown” and again enjoy one another’s company over the shared Eucharist, the fellowship, the pastoral support face to face.

Yes, we fell asleep in one world and woke in another.

Suddenly Paris was no longer romantic, the ruins of Rome were no longer attractive, New York did not welcome us, and Mecca was empty. No country’s boundary was a fortress.

Hugs and kisses suddenly became weapons, not visiting parents or friends became an act of love. Suddenly you realise that power and money can’t get you the oxygen you are fighting for, but the world continues its life, and it is beautiful.

Nature has sent us a message...

You are not my masters, the air, earth, wind, water and the universe without you are fine. When all this is over, remember we are God’s guests in His Creation. Let us preserve it and give thanks for all that is good in it.

Today God sends us yet again the old message, John 16:33

‘In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world’.

The Resurrection is here. Let us give thanks and praise wherever we are this Easter.”

Amanda Bradley

## The Donkey

By G. K. Chesterton (1874 – 1936)

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

*A short note from Desiree Aicken and it makes me wonder how many more of you feel this way? I'd love you to share with me, blessings Janice (Editor)*

When I first moved into my one roomed apartment in this Retirement Village two and a half years ago from my four bedroomed family full home, I felt that it was like a little cell in a monastery. Goody.

Now I'm feeling even more as though this is the case. No activities. Just stay in your room or go for a walk around the village alone, or I go and sit in the chapel and pray there. All meals served in your room.

Definitely a monastery now. But much more time for praying.

Des Aicken.

## **A little story from me from my journey toward Easter...**

The other morning, I had an interesting experience. I had for the first time ordered from the supermarket online (a learning event in itself). I had been unable to get it delivered so had collected my shopping, neatly bagged and ready in a trolley, very simply from the “priority queue”.

Once home I set about the recommended safety procedures...hot soapy water, rinse in cold water, and dry for some, and wiping with disinfectant wipes on much else.

It was the eggs that did it! I was washing them in the soapy water, rinsing and drying them. You can picture it! Not something you can rush at like a bull at the gate! Suddenly as I washed and dried them, I felt an overwhelming and profound reverence. As if love totally apprehended me. This was no intellectual experience at all. There was something about the way I was handling these fragile elements, one by one so carefully and gently, lovingly perhaps, in a way that I had never done before. I still feel tears in my eyes as I remember the experience.

No bread, no wine of Eucharist, this week, but a powerful reminder of new life and of the gifts of God of both death and of life. In the midst of these times of potential loss of life, love entered this moment!

An incarnational moment! I believe so.

Why now? I sense that the slowness and intentionality of my being fully present in that moment, made room for such awareness. Awareness came too of all the things that I take for granted, I usually put my shopping away quite quickly, without thought for the gift of life and of food. Also, painfully aware that so many suffer the lack of such simple things, I wept!

Contemplative, Thomas Keating, speaks of humility in this way. “Humility is the truth. That is the capacity to accept whatever happens peacefully. Then you can decide whether God is calling you to simply accept the



situation or to do something to improve or correct it. Humility is a permanent disposition that puts one in tune with the universe and with whatever happens in the present moment”.

The experience which I had, calls me change my old patterns, to slow down, not take things for granted and much more!

What are your experiences in this extraordinary time? Please remember that Janice Thorne welcomes reflections and any “newsy” offerings for Tau!

Peace and all goodness, Liz Farrands

### **I am a natural Franciscan**

As I walk up the drive I watch the monarch butterflies flit from one side to the other.

There are trees of the same species on each side of the drive.

The butterflies like to lay their eggs there. I talk to the butterflies as I pass.

“Hello. I am glad to see you this morning. I hope you find a mate, lay some eggs, and produce caterpillars to be the next generation.”



I have always talked to living creatures; butterflies, bees, spiders, cats, dogs.

There is more to Francis than talking to animals, otherwise I would not follow him, but I am a natural Franciscan.

Barb Lash

## Safe Water for Morisia

Thank you for supporting the 2019 Christmas Appeal, Give Water, the essence of survival. Watch Morisia wash her hands safely in this short clip from Uganda. She is testing a new foot-operated handwashing station designed and made by the Centre for Community Solidarity.

When news of the Coronavirus reached CCS, staff intensified their handwashing awareness campaign. Through their 25 local associations, they passed on news of the virus and advised on the best ways to protect their communities.

Overnight, they have reported Uganda has gone into curfew for 14 days and people are not to leave their homes. Fortunately, CCS was able to build 40 new rainwater tanks for families affected by HIV and AIDS ahead of the outbreak. Our hope is that those people with rainwater tanks will be able to share some of their precious water with those who have none.

The poorest communities have few resources to stop COVID-19. UNICEF and the World Health Organisation say 3 billion people do not have basic handwashing facilities including water and soap.

Pauline McKay  
National Director



## The Irish Way

by Laura Ding-Edwards (Rainbow Roots)

If the mountain seems too big today, then climb a hill instead.  
If the morning brings you sadness, it's OK to stay in bed.  
If the day ahead weighs heavy and your plans feel like a curse,  
There's no shame in rearranging, don't make yourself feel worse.  
If a shower stings like needles and a bath feels like you'll drown,  
If you haven't washed your hair for days, don't throw away your crown!  
A day is not a lifetime, a rest is not defined.  
Don't think of it as failure, just a quiet, kind retreat.  
It's OK to take a moment from an anxious, fractured mind.  
The world will not stop turning while you get realigned.  
The mountain will still be there when you want to try again,  
So climb it in your own time....and love yourself 'til then.

Submitted by Yvonne McLean

## A Prayer

Dear Lord, we pray for those who you've called to help and care for the sick.  
The ones who don't have a choice to hide from things that may scare them,  
but instead are on the front line.  
Wrap your protection around them.  
Meet them with your peace that surpasses all understanding.  
Allow them to feel your presence right beside them.  
Regardless of what happens here on earth,  
we know you are still on the throne.  
Nothing is bigger than you.  
But we lift up the brave ones who are directly involved.  
We know without the medical field  
things would be much worse.  
Thank you for working through these people,  
thank you for being so close.

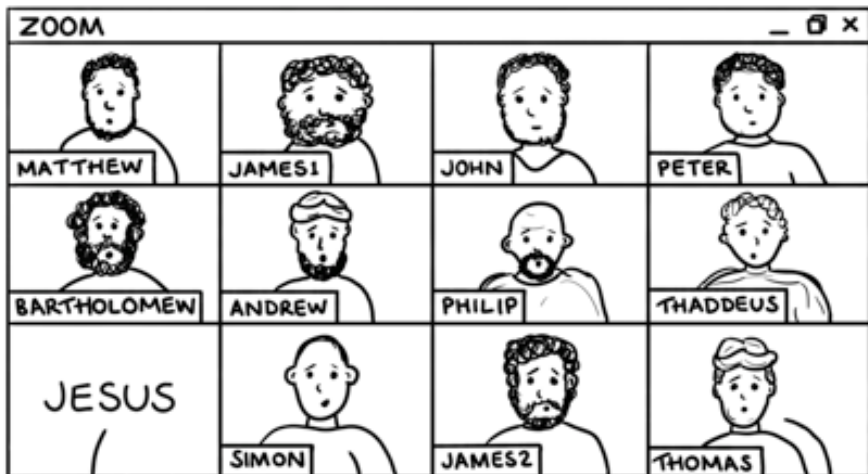
Amen.



Submitted by Yvonne McLean

God of the present moment,  
 God who in Jesus stills the storm,  
 and soothes the frantic heart;  
 bring hope and courage to us all  
 as we wait in uncertainty.  
 Bring hope that you will make us the equal  
 of whatever lies ahead.  
 Bring us courage to endure what cannot be  
 avoided,  
 for your will is health and wholeness;  
 you are God, and we need you.  
 Amen.

*Submitted by Yvonne McLean*



HEY.

HOW ON EARTH IS HE IN THE MEETING?

UNLESS HE TURNS ON HIS CAMERA, I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT

*Tom Wakeling*