

## WE, WITHOUT A FUTURE

And so we must learn to live again,  
we of the damaged bodies  
and assaulted minds.  
Starting from scratch with the rubble of our lives  
and picking up the dust  
of dreams once dreamt.

And we start there, naked in our vulnerability,  
proud of starting over, fighting back,  
but full of weak humility  
at the awesomeness of the task.

We, without a future,  
safe, defined, delivered  
now salute you God.  
Knowing that nothing is safe,  
secure, inviolable here.  
Except you,  
and even that eludes our minds at times.  
And we hate you  
and we love you,  
and our anger is as strong  
as our pain,  
our grief is deep as oceans,  
and our need as great as mountains.

So, as we take our first steps forward  
into the abyss of the future,  
we would pray for  
courage to go places for the first time  
and just be there.  
Courage to become what we have  
not been before  
and accept it,  
with bravery to look deep  
within our souls to find  
new ways.

We did not want it easy God,  
but we did not contemplate  
that it would be quite this hard,  
this long, this lonely.

So, if we are to be turned inside out,  
and upside down,  
with even our pockets shaken,  
just to check what is rattling  
and left behind,  
we pray that you will keep faith with us,  
and we with you,  
holding our hands as we weep,  
giving us strength to continue,  
and showing us beacons  
along the way  
to becoming new.

We are not fighting you God,  
even if it feels like it,  
but we need your help and company,  
as we struggle on.  
Fighting back  
and starting over.

*Anna McKenzie.*

# Dead Man



# Waiting

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*Good Friday, April 10, 2009  
The Baptist Tabernacle 429 Queen Street Auckland*

Curated by Mark Pierson & The Parallel Universe Worship  
Collective. Thanks to Cheryl Lawrie, Melbourne for some  
words and inspiration.  
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## HURT

I hurt myself today  
to see if I still feel  
I focus on the pain  
the only thing that's real  
the needle tears a hole  
the old familiar sting  
try to kill it all away  
but I remember everything  
what have I become?  
my sweetest friend  
everyone I know  
goes away in the end  
and you could have it all  
my empire of dirt  
I will let you down  
I will make you hurt

....

*Johnny Cash*  
(Words *Nine Inch Nails*)

## O GOD WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

O God, Hold me now  
O, Lord, hold me now  
There's no other man who could raise the dead  
So do what you can to anoint my head

Oh God, where are you now?  
O Lord say somehow  
The devil is hard on my face again  
The world is a hundred to one again

Would the righteous still remain?  
Would my body stay the same?

Oh God, hold me now  
Oh God, touch me now  
There's no other man who could save the dead  
There's no other God to place our head

Would the righteous still remain?  
Would my body stay the same?

There's no other man who could raise the dead  
So do what you can to anoint my head

Oh God, hold me now  
Oh God, touch me now.  
*Sufjan Stevens*

But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.  
John 16/7 (CEV)

## Stage 5: (leaving)

'But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.' Jesus, John 16:7

*If there were any time that the world needed your Spirit, this is it.*

*We wait here*

*perhaps sceptical  
perhaps angry  
perhaps desperate  
perhaps lonely  
perhaps anxious  
perhaps doubting  
perhaps resigned  
perhaps hopeful*

*All we know of God is stripped away*

*Crucified.*

*And we wait.*

Take an ice cross and a barbed wire cross with you as you leave... hold them in your hand as you move into the waiting world.

Carry the waiting of the world with you as you go.

On Sunday the story continues ...

#### Stage 4:

'But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.' Jesus, John 16:7

*The world is too tired from waiting  
too empty from crying  
too lost from wondering  
too bereft for comfort  
too angry for peace  
too lonely for hope*

*We pray for all those who feel as though they  
are living permanently in Easter Saturday.*

*If there were any time that the world needed  
your Spirit, this is it.*

Who are those in the world that you know are living in the depths of hell?

Write their names into the ice with the barbed wire.

#### Stage 1:

'But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.' Jesus, John 16:7

*You think this is what's best for us?  
They humiliated you on a cross.*

*And we're humiliated too, because we put our  
trust in you.*

*No wonder Peter denied you.  
Maybe it wasn't out of fear, but out of  
sheer, bloody rage that this is how the dream  
ended.*

*How can you think this is what's best for us?*

*We put everything we had into you.  
Our trust.  
Our belief you were one who could save us.*

*You offered us a taste of welcome,  
a hint of grace,  
a touch of freedom.*

*For a moment we glimpsed a new world,  
and you promised an eternity of that.*

*And we trusted you.*

*We're left wondering which is worse  
- that it ended like this,  
or that you knew it would end like this  
and you took us with you anyway.*

The death of Jesus shattered every belief his followers had about who God should be.

Take a flower from the wreath.

As you pull the petals from the flower, think of the beliefs you have about God that the cross forces you to confront... pull petals out of the flower to symbolise each of these.

Leave them behind when you walk away.

## Stage 2:

'But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.' Jesus, John 16:7

*Is it because of us that the story had to go like this?*

*There is so much we haven't done.*

*There are so many ways we have abandoned you.*

*We've let you down, turned the other way, ignored you, denied you.*

*Is your death our fault?*

What is it about yourself that the cross forces you to confront?

Write your words of confession onto the paper

Drop it under the drips of water.

Leave it there when you walk away.

## Stage 3:

'But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you. That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you.' Jesus, John 16:7

*We don't want the Spirit*

*We want you.*

*To touch, to eat with, to drink with.*

*To hear your laugh,  
to watch the way you change a room when  
you walk into it.*

*We'd even take you angry, shouting and  
turning over tables, if it meant we could have  
you back. Just one last time.*

*We'd make it different this time.*

What is the thing you long for most?  
What is the dream – or reality – that you have  
lost, which you would give anything to have  
back,  
to be made real again?

Imagine that the shape of this dream is held in  
this piece of paper.

Rip it out of the paper. Place it in front of you...

Tell God what it's like to have lost this

Tell God how much you long for it to be made  
real again

Tell God what it's like to be waiting

When you are ready, and if you can,  
leave your longing in the care of God  
as you move on.