

Did You Observe That?
rescuing weekly worship from the mundane.
#2. A Rollercoaster Week.
(Holy Week to Easter Sunday)



A Catholic Guide to Ashes



First in Line



The Blob



The Hasty



Rorschach



Father's Revenge



The Mini



The Hipster



Load Toner



The Hindu



The Franciscan



**International
Women's Day
08 March**

Palm Sunday

6th Sunday in Lent: Palm Sunday/Te Rātapu

Tuaono o Rēneti: te Rātapu Nikau

March 28



The Day Before...





1. The day he came riding into town
(hurrah! hurrah!)
His people tore the branches down
(hurrah! hurrah!)
They cheered his name with voices loud
And everyone joined the chanting crowd,
“May the King be blessed; he comes in the
name of God!”
2. The day he came riding into town
(hurrah! hurrah!)
The city weighed his spirit down
(hurrah! hurrah!)
His eyes were wet with bitter tears
For he knew the price of the heedless years
And he feels their pain who comes in the
name of God!
3. The day he came riding into town
(hurrah! hurrah!)
It caused the men of power to frown
(hurrah! hurrah!)
“We have our laws! We have our ways!
We need no king to rule our days!
We denounce his right to come in the name of
God!”

Red Altar Cloth for Holy Week

RHYTHMS OF GRACE 2020

[altar: *noun*. 2.contemporary Christian - ‘a table or flat space set aside for the actions and artefacts (objects) symbolising prayer, sacrifice and commitment to following the Trinitarian God. *Origin*. Old Testament worship of God.’

altar cloth: *noun*. ‘cloth or paper cover placed on altar, or to designate a “set aside” area. Artefacts (objects) may be placed on this.’
[*MFP Dictionary of Contemporary Ecclesiology*]

Readings for Holy Week.

Palm Sunday: Luke 19 (Entering Jerusalem)
Place a piece of your Palm branch, or another tree, on your altar i.e. this paper.

Monday in Holy Week: Mark 11 verse 12, to end of chapter. (Anger in the temple)

Tuesday in Holy Week: Mark 14 verse 1, to verse 31. (Expensive perfume; The last supper)
Dab some perfume, vanilla essence, after-shave, or anything nicely scented, on your altar cloth.

Wednesday in Holy Week: John 13 (Washing dirty feet; Judas makes his move)
Place a facecloth or soap on your altar.

Maundy Thursday: Mark 14 verse 32, to end of chapter. (In the garden; In court)
Place some soil or grass on your altar.

Good Friday: Mark 15 (or John 18 & 19 for John’s fuller version.) (Trial and death)
Place your hand-made cross from today’s service, or another you make from found-objects, on your altar.

Easter Saturday: “The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee...saw the tomb where Jesus’ body was placed. Then they went to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath (Saturday), as commanded.” Luke 23: 55, 56.
Place a stone on your altar.

Easter Sunday: Luke 24. (Jesus has come back to life.)
Remove all the objects on your red paper and change your red paper for a white piece of paper or fabric. Let your Easter egg rest here as long as you can. As you eat it, be reminded of the new start in life that God offers you through what Jesus has done. Leave the wrapping on your white altar for a few days.

Take this home. Place it on your table or desk - somewhere it will remind you of what this week is about. Use the readings each day.

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The Story

Sit in your seat and read through the story. Underline anything that stands out to you.

If you want to, go to the “Expectations” station and take a barbed wire cross; and to the “Heading To Jerusalem” station and pick up a red paper and a palm branch to take home with you. Use these to reflect on the story during the week.

The Stones Will Praise...

What are you grateful for?

Write that on a stone and add it to the cairn.

[*cairn*: a mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark.]

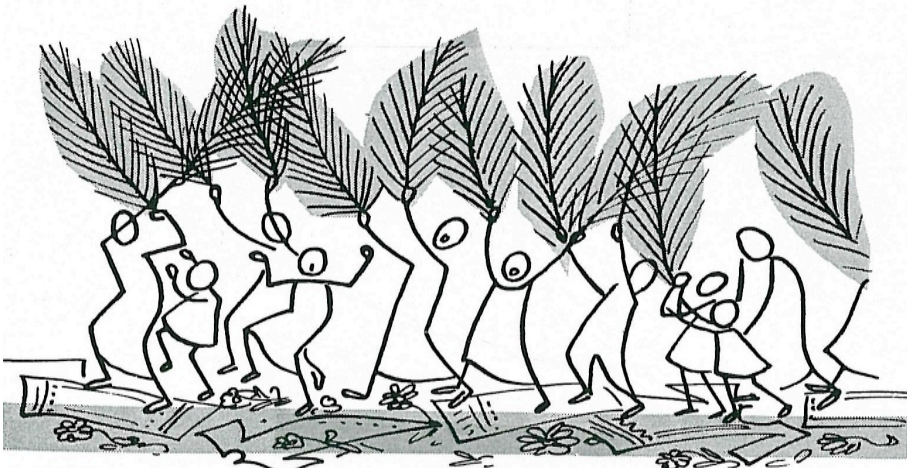
Crying for the City (v41)

O God of the marginalised, teach me how to understand others. Let me share in the hurt and hunger of the street, the alleyway, the corner, the neighbour.

Help me to turn my apathy and distractedness into creative justice.

Renew me with the experience of your grace and the reality of your love and mercy. Through Jesus Christ, who is my Lord as well as my save-r, Amen.

Dip your finger in the salty water and press those “tears” onto the map near where you live, as a symbol of your prayer for yourself and your city.



Curated by Mark Pierson
& The Parallel Universe Worship Collective.
mark@markpierson.org.nz

PALM SUNDAY

**Jesus: The Expected One,
But Not the One They Expected.
(God's April Fool's Day joke?)**

Luke 19/28-48 (The Message)

28-31After saying these things, Jesus headed straight up to Jerusalem. When he got near Bethphage and Bethany at the mountain called Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says anything, asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'His Master needs him.'"

32-33The two left and found it just as he said. As they were untying the colt, its owners said, "What are you doing untying the colt?"

34They said, "His Master needs him."

35-36They brought the colt to Jesus. Then, throwing their coats on its back, they helped Jesus get on. As he rode, the people gave him a grand welcome, throwing their coats on the street.

37-38Right at the crest, where Mount Olives begins its descent, the whole crowd of disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed: Blessed is he who comes, the king in God's name! All's well in heaven! Glory in the high places!

39Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, get your disciples under control!"

40But he said, "If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise."

41-44When the city came into view, he wept over it. "If you had only recognized this day, and everything that was good for you! But now it's too late. In the days ahead your enemies are going to bring up their heavy artillery and surround you, pressing in from every side. ... Not one stone will be left intact. All this because you didn't recognize and welcome God's personal visit."

45-46Going into the Temple he began to throw out everyone who had set up shop, selling everything and anything. He said, "It's written in Scripture, My house is a house of prayer; You have turned it into a religious bazaar."

*Palm Sunday/ April 01/ 2012
The Upper Room Church*

RESPONSE STATIONS:

Invitations: Have a quick read through the possibilities below. Find something that catches your attention. They are in no particular order. You may choose to use one, several, all, or none of them to guide your reflections. Move around the space when you are ready. Include any children with you by explaining what the station is about.

Heading To Jerusalem (v28)

Pick a Palm branch.

Sit with Jesus for a while as he gets ready to head to Jerusalem. Reflect on what is ahead for you in the next week, month, year....

Where are you heading? What change of direction is needed?

What do you need from Jesus today? Clarity? Understanding? Courage? Insight? Wisdom? Forgiveness? Strength? Presence?

Write your prayer on the table cloth.

As you share the meal in community with your fellow followers of Jesus, encounter the risen Christ and receive from him what you need to move forward.

Take your Palm branch and a *Red Altar Cloth* with you to guide your reflections through this week.



Entering the City, Jan Hynes. (2008)

Look carefully over the painting (a large copy is on the wall).

What do you think the artist is trying to say about the Palm Sunday event?

Where would you put yourself in the painting? Mark that spot on the image below.

Is this where you want to be? Mark where you would like to be.

What needs to happen for this movement to take place?



Expectations

Hold a barbed wire cross.

What is there about following Jesus that isn't what you expected? Is this good? Bad? Doesn't matter?

Does it say more about you than about Jesus, or the other way around?

Do you need to change anything?

Take the barbed wire cross home with you to remind you about these questions through the week.



Holy Week



What Jesus did during Holy Week (maybe!)]

Palm Sunday: Heads for Jerusalem; sends 2 disciples to find transport; enters to adulation.

Monday: Clears the Temple

Tuesday: Mount of Olives; Judas does a deal.

Wednesday: Takes a break

Thursday: Passover; upper room; kiss; denial; arrest; trial

Friday: Trial; crucifixion; death; burial

Saturday: Nicodemus; tomb; Hades

The season of lent appears after the council of Nicea. With so many biblical precedents, did it really take the church more than 300 years to seize upon the idea of fasting for forty days? The early history of lent is interesting and complex; it is something of a “choose your own adventure.”

The Early History of Lent,
article by Nicholas V. Russo, Baylor University

Palm Sunday



Spy Wednesday

Judas the spy

Marty anointing Jesus feet and Judas's
response

Maundy Thursday



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).



Maundy Thursday on April 1st — the last temptation of Eric

Tennebrae/Service of Shadows

Seven sayings

- Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do
- Today you will be with me in paradise
- Woman, behold, your son! Behold, your mother!
- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- I thirst
- It is finished
- Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

Tonight we are remembering the death of Jesus.

This service is loosely based on the "Tenebrae" services that date back to early church history.

There are six "shadows" that represent six stages of the Good Friday events.

At each stage there will be an episode from the gospel narrative that describes one of the Good Friday events.

a time of silent prayer,

a symbolic action,

and then a reading of an Old Testament scripture that sheds some light on this,

At each stage, a candle will be extinguished, until all the light is gone.

This will be followed by the strepitus, the slamming closed of the Bible,

symbolic of the earthquake that shook the land when Jesus died.

We will then spend some time waiting with Jesus in the dark of the grave.

This is a sombre service, with time for reflection on the sufferings of Christ.

P R E S E N C E

A B S E N C E

It isn't me
is it Mac?
Even if eno
oe else fall
to pieces on
account of yo
I want....

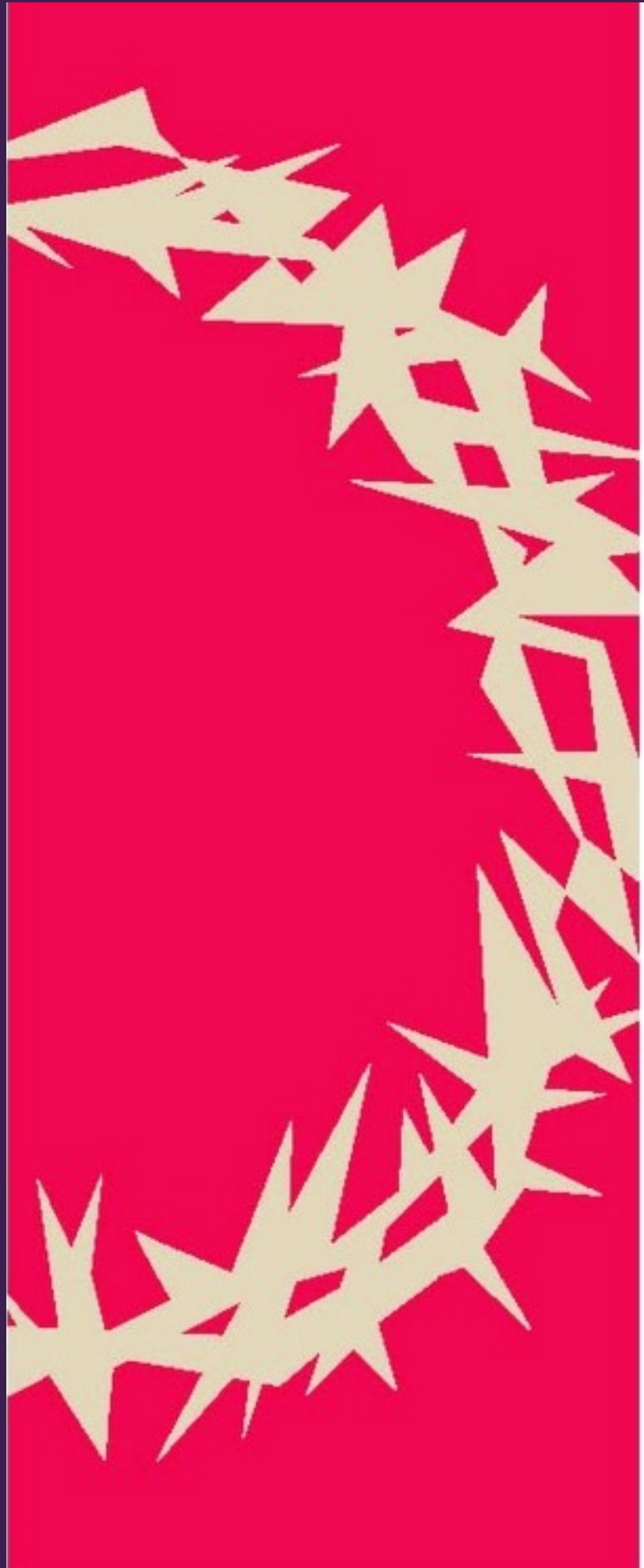








Good Friday



**Holy Triduum,
or Paschal Triduum
or just Triduum.**

Dead Man



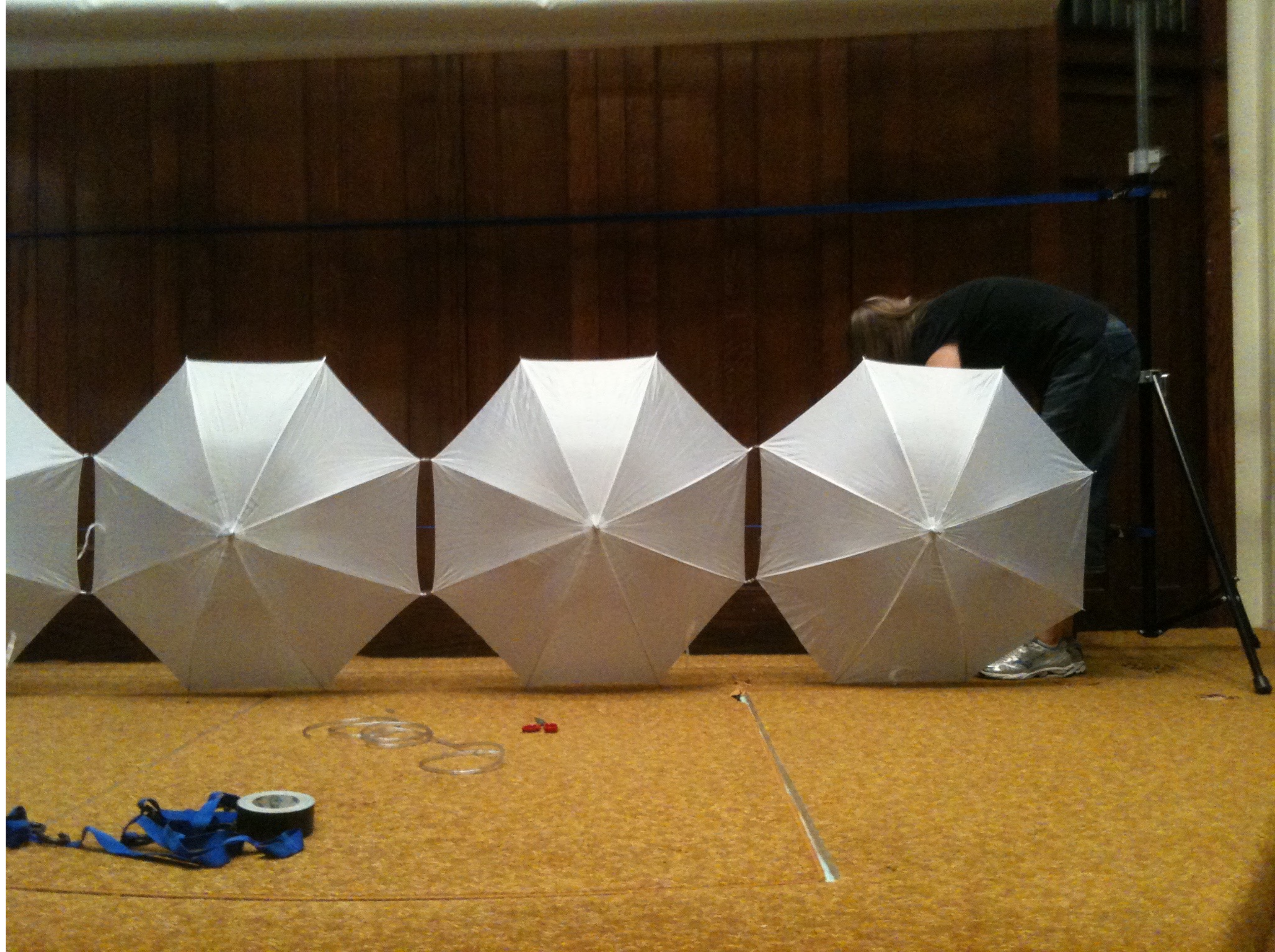
Waiting

*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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Dead Man Waiting...

2009







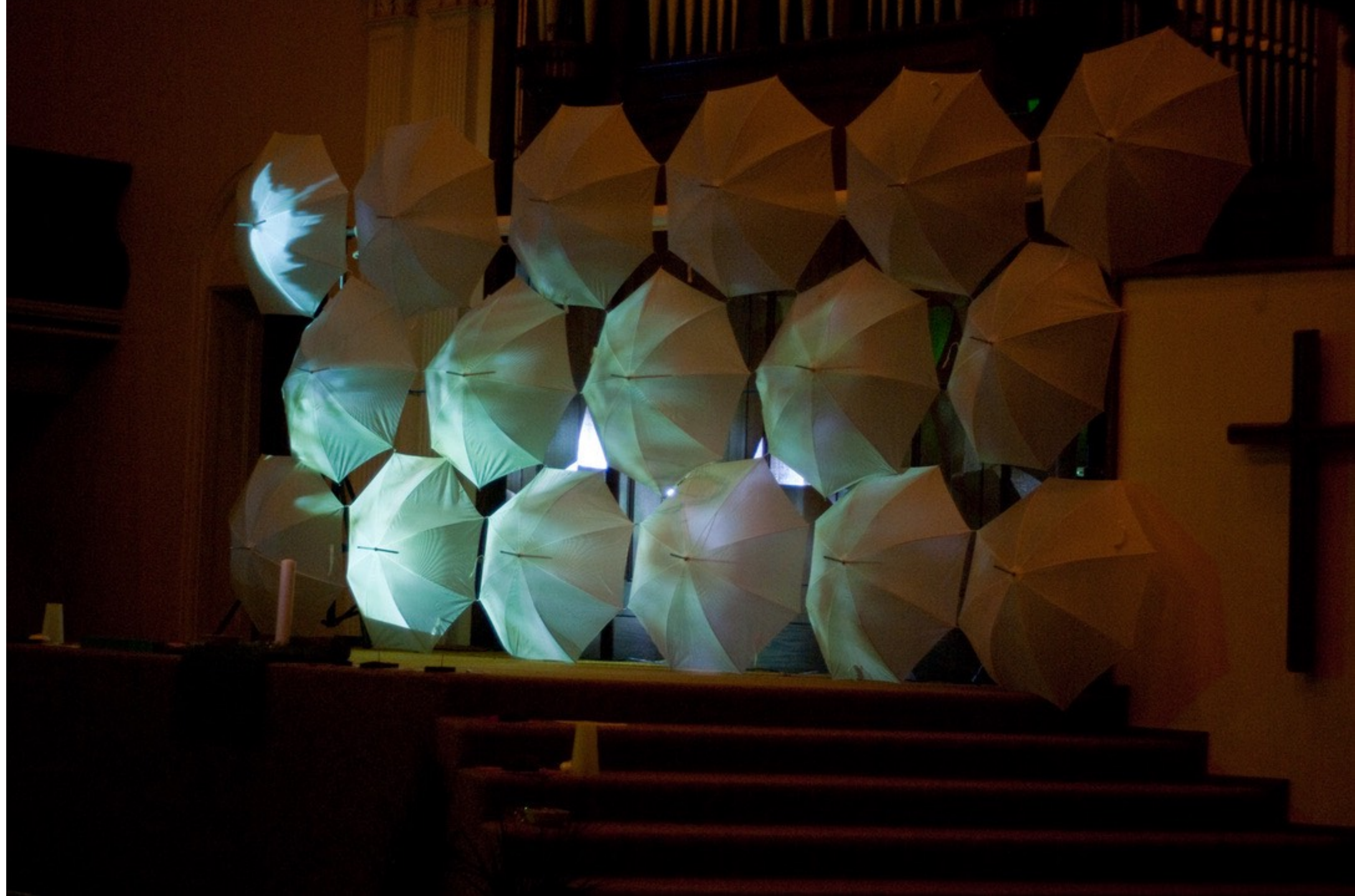
















Dead Man Waiting...

2010



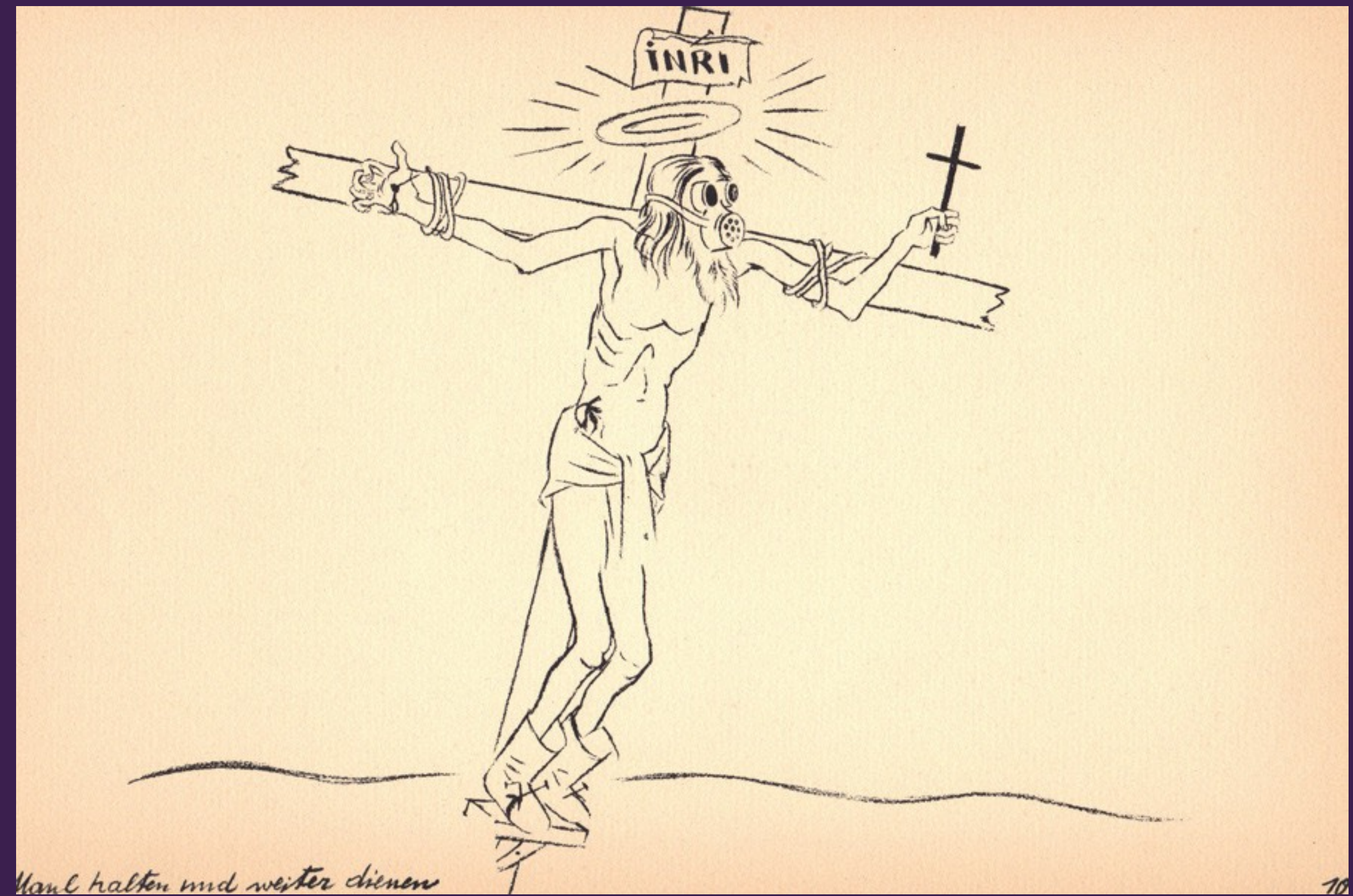












Jesus wearing a gasmask. (Hintergrund)

George Grosz, 1893-1959



George Grosz, 1893-1959

The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb (1521) Hans Holbein



The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb
(1521) Hans Holbein. 30.5 cm × 200 cm



The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb
(1521) Hans Holbein. 30.5 cm × 200 cm



Jesus Blood Never Failed Me Yet, Gavin Bryars.

Staff, Ship At Sea

Were You There...?

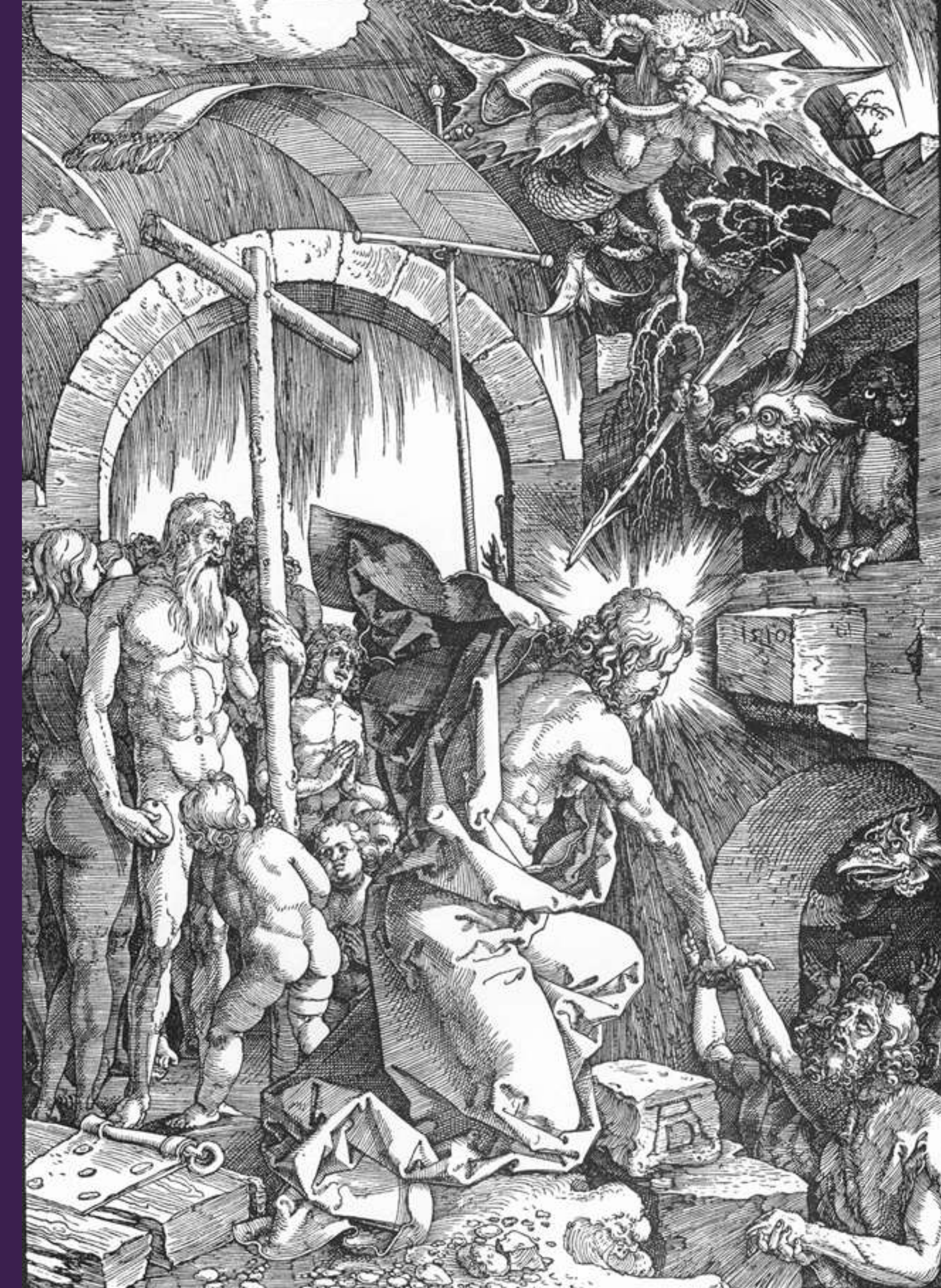
Easter Saturday



Between Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus does battle with the powers binding humanity and all of creation, breaks down the doors of hell, binds the strongman, and releases the captives (Adam, Eve, and all the followers of God who lived before Jesus). In one description of the battle, Death/Satan swallows Jesus after his death on the cross, like a fish swallowing bait, thinking Jesus is just a human, and realizes too late that he swallowed the hook, God. Death is destroyed by Life from the inside out.



Albrecht Dürer (1471 – 1528)

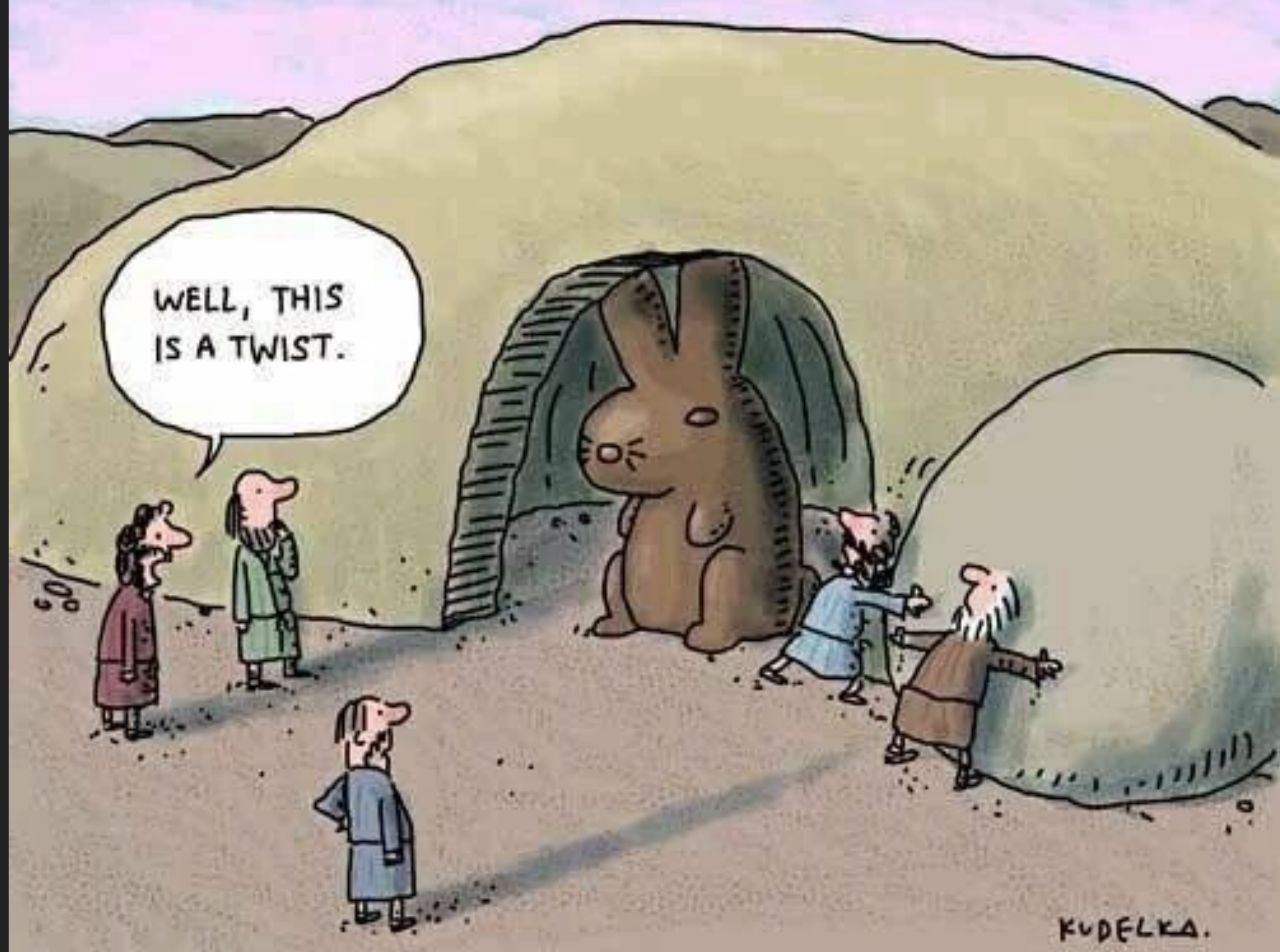


Easter Vigil

Evening of Easter Saturday to sunrise of Sunday

Easter Sunday





WELL, THIS
IS A TWIST.

KUDELKA.

Low Sunday

“On the Road Again”





Caravaggio (1571–1610)
Supper at Emmaus
1601
oil on canvas
141 x 196,2cm
National Gallery, London



Caravaggio (1571–1610)
Supper at Emmaus
(Milan)
1606
painting
141 x 175cm.
Pinacoteca di Brera

Theology & Arts websites
<https://artandtheology.org/?s=good+friday>

March

08 International Women's Day

15 Mosque Murders, Christchurch, 2019

17 NZ Land Wars began at Waitara, 1860

17 St Patricks Day

20 Autumn Equinox

22 World Water Day

24 Oscar Romero killed while serving Communion in church 1980

25 Annunciation

27 Earth Hour (8.30pm wherever you are)

April

09 Dietrich Bonhoeffer hanged, 1945

11 World Humour Day (Just before our next webinar on 14th!)cf April 01

22 Earth Day

25 World Malaria Day

27 Freedom Day (South Africa)

29 International Dance Day

30 Arbor Day

My plans during Holy
Week?

Palm Sunday - leave remnants through until after
Easter Sunday

Maundy Thursday (Tennebrae/Service of Shadows)

Good Friday: Dead Man Denied

Easter Saturday: Dead Man Waiting

Easter Sunday: Dead Man Rising

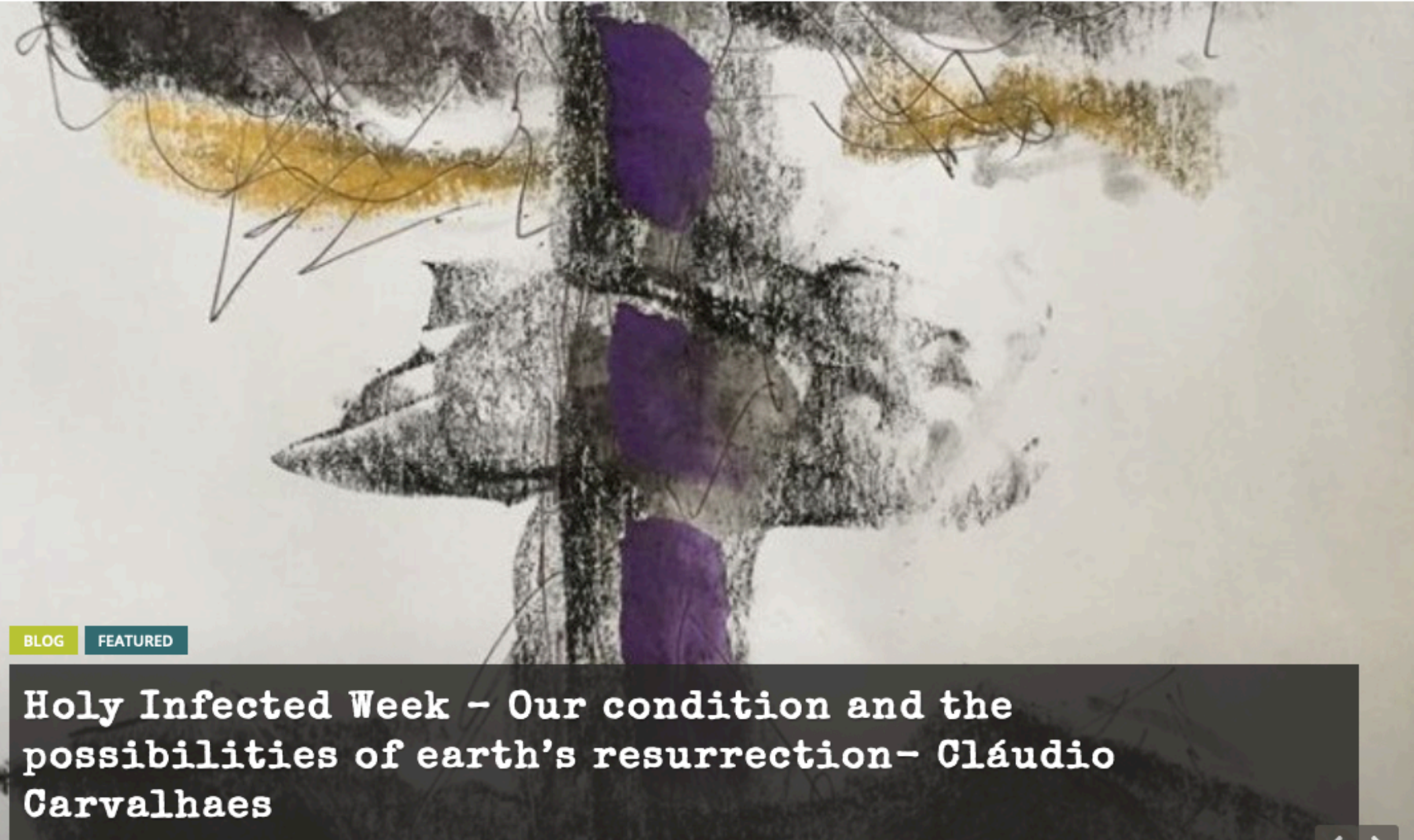
Low Sunday: Dead Man Walking (Emmaus Road)

Resources



BLOG FEATURED

Holy Infected Week – Our condition and the possibilities of earth's resurrection– Cláudio Carvalhaes



BLOG FEATURED

Holy Infected Week – Our condition and the possibilities of earth's resurrection– Cláudio Carvalhaes

<https://reimaginingworship.com>

CLÁUDIO CARVALHAES

LITURGIES from BELOW

462 acts of worship

Praying with People
at the Ends of the World

When Council for World Mission decided to name Empire as the context of mission, ... we said then that dispassionate, lifeless and disinterested words will not embolden faith, expose false power and embrace, with unmistakable and uncompromising clarity and devotion, the God of faithfulness and justice. This Project initiated with four workshops in Manila, Johannesburg, Kingston and Sicily.

...We are seeking to create alternative liturgical resources defying the logic of empire, build capacity of local congregations to develop and use life affirming Worship Resources, develop a network of Liturgists, Pastors, Scholars, Students, Artists, and activists and organise a global liturgical solidarity based on local religious rituals, liturgies and performances.

<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2020/04/08/easter-sunday-we-begin-in-the-dark/>

+ click on links on lower page.

<https://godspacelight.com/2015/03/27/resources-for-good-friday-2015/>

+ click on links on lower page.

Questions?

Comments?

Postlude

“Have a beneficial week.”

Lent is a "call to turn away decisively from what keeps us from God, alienates us from other people and stops us living well." Maggi Dawn