

Dear Friends,

I have long been an admirer of the poetry of Malcolm Guite and during Holy Week and Easter poetry becomes a powerful way of expressing the inexpressible.

Jesus' Body is taken down from the Cross

His spirit and his life he breathes in all,
now on the cross his body breathes no more.
Here at the centre everything is still,
spent and emptied, open to the core.
A quiet taking down, a prising loose,
a cross-beam lowered like a weighing scale,
unmaking of each thing that had its use,
a long withdrawing of each blooded nail.
This is ground zero, emptiness and space,
with nothing left to say or think or do,
but look unflinching on the sacred face
that cannot move or change or look at you.
Yet in that prising loose and letting be
he has unfastened you and set you free.

I love the fact that at the end of Guite's poem he acknowledges that there is more to come. That Holy Week is not just about almost unimaginable pain and suffering and darkness but there is freedom and light and hope as well. This death makes something extraordinary possible. The cross is not the end of the story. There is an empty tomb still to come. In the most difficult of times, in the most painful of circumstances there is hope, joy and new life still to come. That is the Christian hope - let it be our message of Easter joy!

Paul

Resources/Good News

Love, always. | Easter Short Film

The story of Easter shows us that love is alive in us today

Watch the film here [Love, always. | Easter Short Film \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

