

Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

Week 12

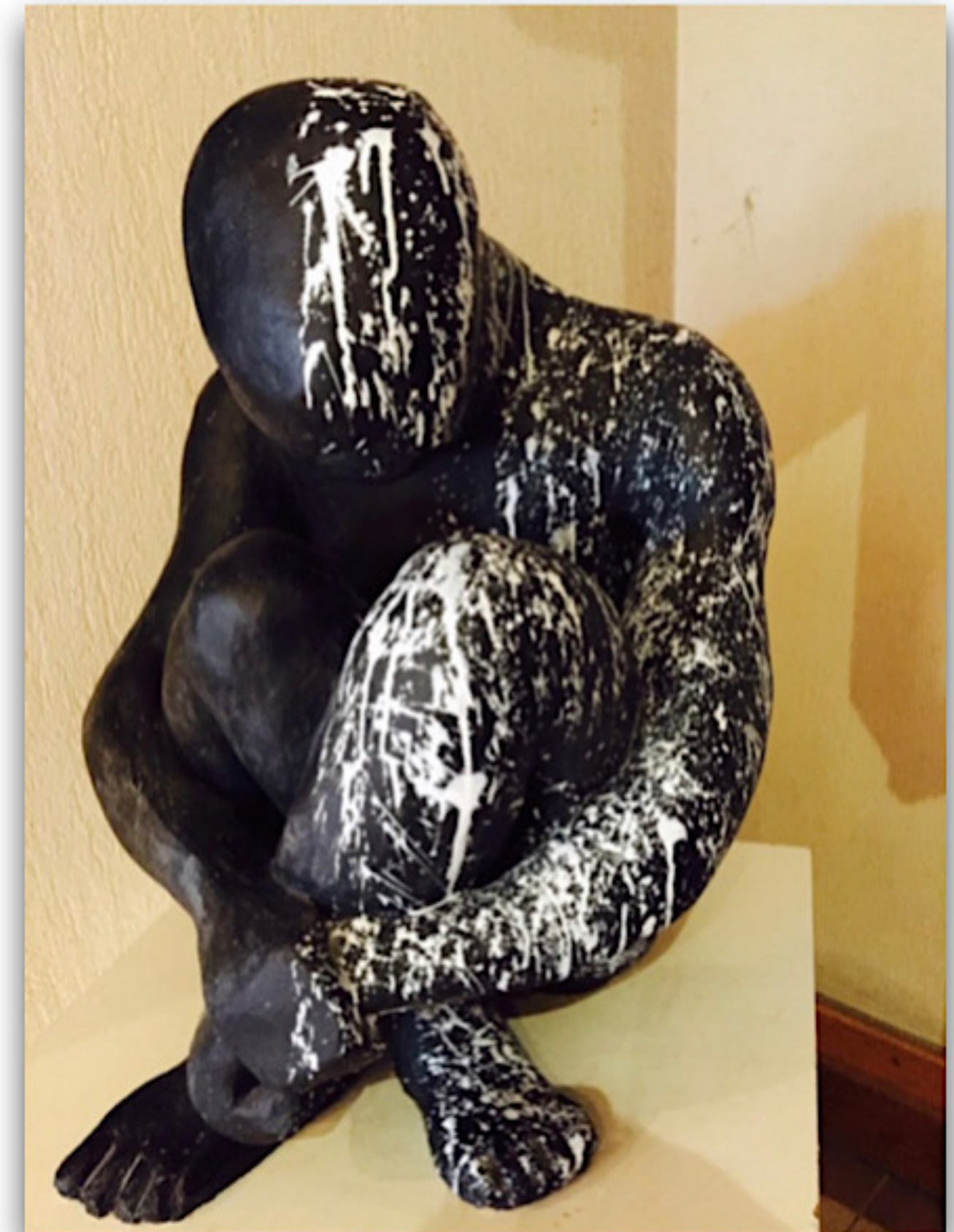


- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Sit in a relaxed position and close your eyes.
- Breathe normally and become aware of the presence of God.
- John tells us ‘I and the Father are one.’
 - How do you respond to this statement of Jesus?
 - When you talk with God, who do you talk with?
- Take time to look at the image on the right.
 - How do you respond to it?
 - Talk with God about your responses.
 - You might like to listen to Sandra McCracken sing Trinity Song or Voces 8 sing Laudibus in Sanctis.
- You might like to listen to Tchaikovsky’s Gloria here.



➤ You might like to listen to:

- Day 1: God Almighty reigns sung by Misha Goetz then click [here](#).
- Day 2: My sheep know my voice sung by The Symphonials then click [here](#).
- Day 3: He was despised sung by Jakob Jozef Orlinski then click [here](#).
- Day 4: To the mystery sung by Michael Card then click [here](#).
- Day 5: The Love of God sung by Abigail Miller then click [here](#).
- Day 6: Blessed be your name sung by Matt Redman then click [here](#).
- Day 7: Four days late sung by The Foster Triplets then click [here](#).

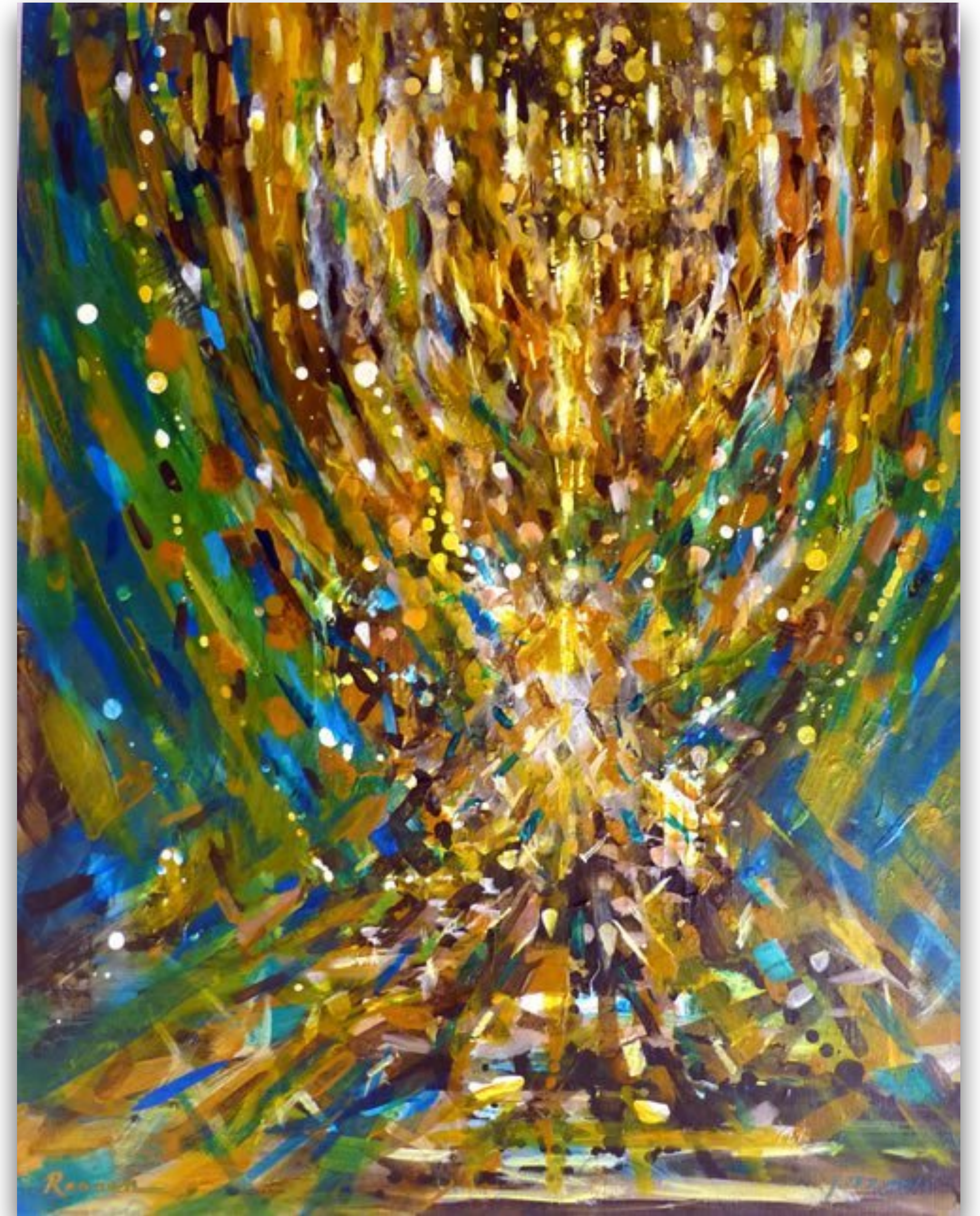


Day 1: John 10:19-24

The Jews who heard these words were again divided. Many of them said, 'He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?' But others said, 'These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?'

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

- Read this passage from John 10.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click [here](#) to continue.



Day 2: John 10:25-30

Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

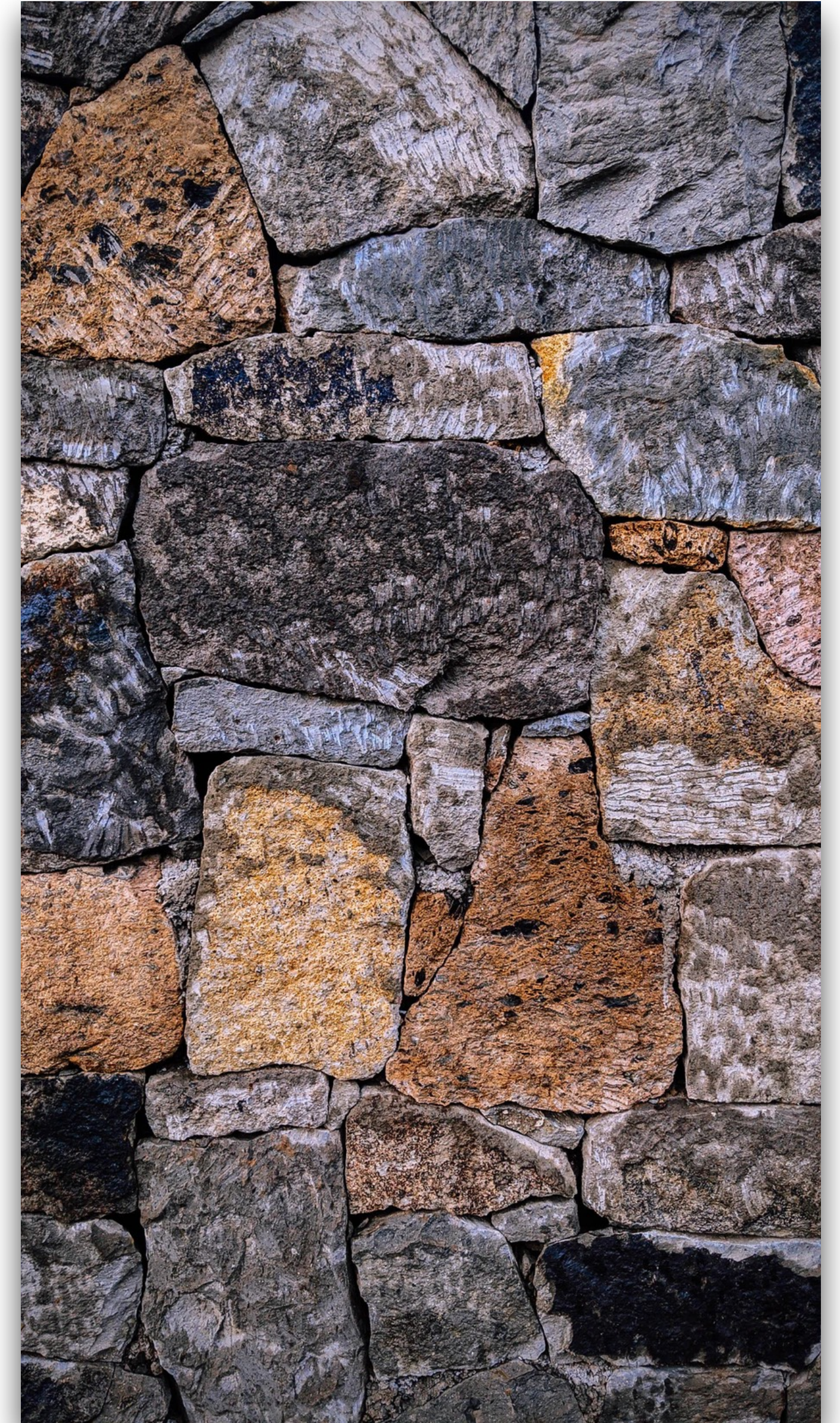
- Read this passage from John 10.
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Day 3: John 10:31-33

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' 'We are not stoning you for any good work,' they replied, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'

- Read this passage from John 10.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Day 4: John 10:34-39

Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your Law, "I have said you are 'gods'"? If he called them "gods", to whom the word of God came - and Scripture cannot be set aside - what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, "I am God's Son"? Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.' Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

- Read this passage from John 10.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Day 5: John 10:40-11:3

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptising in the early days. There he stayed, and many people came to him. They said, 'Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true.' And in that place many believed in Jesus. Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

- Read this passage from John 10 and 11.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 6: John 11:4-9

When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.' 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

- Read this passage from John 11.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 7: John 11:10-16

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.' His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

- Read this passage from John 11.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
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Over the week you might like to listen to these tracks from Lazarus Requiem composed by Patrick Hawes:

- Day 1: Elegy for Lazarus
- Day 2: Tableau one
- Day 3: Requiem aeternam
- Day 4: Tableau two
- Day 5: Kyrie
- Day 6: Tableau three
- Day 7: O Domine Jesu

A link to the whole album can be found [here](#).



Creative prayer

In the time of Jesus prompt burial was the normal practice.

Once the person had died their body was washed. It appears that perfumes and ointment were used for this washing.

The body was then bound with strips of cloth. We are told that Lazarus' hands and feet were bound and his face was covered with a cloth.

The person's body was then carried by male friends and relatives to the tomb. Friends and family would follow.

The body was placed in the tomb by immediate family while other mourners wailed outside. Sometime personal effects might be placed by the body.

The family remained at home for the first seven days, leaving only to weep at the tomb.

A second burial took place a year later when the bones of the person who had died were placed in a niche, a pit or an ossuary.

For this creative prayer you might like to gather some sticks and tie them together as a reminder of Lazarus' body being prepared and laid in the tomb.



I am the resurrection and the life

How can you be the final resurrection?
That resurrection hasn't happened yet.
Our broken world is still bent on destruction,
No sun can rise before that sun has set.
Our faith looks back to father Abraham
And toward to the one who is to come
How can you speak as though he knew your name?
How can you say: **before he was I am?**

**Begin in me and I will read your riddle
And teach you truths my Spirit will defend
I am the End who meets you in the middle,
The new Beginning hidden in the End.
I am the victory, the end of strife
I am the resurrection and the life.**

Malcolm Guite - used with the poet's permission

Click on the title of this sonnet to listen to the author read these words.



Textile art by Jane Allan. Used with permission.

Journey with Jesus

Praying through the Gospel of John

Week 12

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This prayer station and other resources can be found at [The Prayer Room](#)

