



Read: Luke 23:44-46

The darkness of death fills the land and Jesus surrenders his life to God.

Despite the terrible signs of abusive power conveyed in the imagery of the crucifixion, the gospel writer wants us to know that Jesus voluntarily embraced his own death. However, this surrender of Christ's life is not a stoical acceptance of defeat but an act of profound trust in the God of life, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'

Our culture copes with the reality of death and loss through denial. We deny death because we no longer have the ability to attribute meaning to it. Where there are no eternal perspectives to shape our lives, death makes no sense. But Christ's trust in the eternal God transforms the oblivion of death itself. His resurrection proclaims that death will not have the final word.

Suggestion: Consider how the reality of loss has touched your life. It could be the end of a job, a relationship, a hope or a dream. What place could you go to and be prayerfully present to the grief and disappointment of that ending? Hold it before God. Or it could be a physical death of a loved one or a stranger, someone killed in the 'Troubles' or a recent death in the community. Go to a place that symbolises that loss and listen to the God of life.

Pray: What is your prayer in this place of loss?

Reflect: What hurts and fears have you faced in this place?

Act: Can you support those who live in a place of death?