



The Greeting

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THE SOLID BASIS FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION

I am going to get into trouble for saying this, but, men, you know what women are like – if it has got to be done, it has to be done properly. I suspect that the women, who are mentioned in the Gospel's resurrection accounts, thought that Joseph had rushed Jesus' burial. So very early on Sunday morning they came to the tomb to tidy things up a bit.

They had no hope of Jesus being raised from the dead, but their hopelessness soon turned to bewilderment as they discovered that the large stone over the entrance to Jesus' tomb had been rolled to one side and Jesus' body was gone. Then, as they were trying to get their heads around what was going on, two angels appeared. Now these women had gone through all the emotional gears in a very short space of time – from hopelessness to bewilderment to fear.

And things were about to get even more emotionally unsettling because the angels spoke

to them words of mild rebuke. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again'." (Luke 24:5-7).

In Luke's account of Jesus' resurrection, the stress falls on Jesus' words. The angels are telling the women that the reason for their sense of hopelessness and bewilderment is that they have forgotten Jesus' words. When he spoke to his disciples about his death (Luke 9:22, Luke 9:44, Luke 18:31-33), Jesus always added that he would rise from the dead. But they had forgotten what Jesus had said. They had heard but they had not heard. It had not sunk in, so they did not remember. That was their problem.

What is the clearest reason for believing that Jesus is alive? It is Jesus' word. "Remember how he told you!" There needs to be some serious rebalancing in our thinking about Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is lives not because we **feel** he

lives. We know he lives because he **said** he would live. "Remember how he told you!" The solid basis for Jesus' resurrection is the word of our Saviour and not the strength of our feelings.

And the Christian life in general is to be anchored in the word of Jesus and not in the intensity of our emotions. We must make it a daily practice to lean on what Jesus says in his Word and not on how we feel. It is the word of Jesus which is the solid basis for Jesus' resurrection. Not matter how we feel, we can depend on his unchanging word.

There will be days when we will have no inner peace as unsettling circumstances smash into our lives upsetting our emotional equilibrium. There will be times when we have as much emotional stability as a cork floating around in a gale-swept ocean. What do we do then? We have the word of Jesus, which does not change, and we plant our feet firmly on it and we regain our balance and steadiness. The word of Jesus is not only the solid basis for Jesus' resurrection but for everything in the Christian life.

RODGER CROOKS
Vacancy Convenor

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of May Street Congregation, held in Urban Soul Cafe on Sunday February 16, 2014.

Dr Rodger Crooks, vacancy convenor, presided, and 25 members were present. Attendance and apologies were noted in the attendance register. Dr Crooks opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2013 ABM, which had already been circulated by means of publication in The Greeting, were agreed on the proposal of Arthur Acheson, seconded by Clive Gilmour. **Matters arising:** None.

Reports: The reports of the Kirk Session, congregational committee, Weekly Freewill Offering and the treasurer had been published in the February 2014 issue of The Greeting magazine. The reports were adopted on the proposal of Gordon Kirkpatrick, seconded by Arthur Fannin.

Accounts: Andrew Acheson presented the accounts for 2013, which had been audited by Gordon Kirkpatrick. Receipts amounted to £48,616 (£60,675 in 2012), while payments totalled £51,349 (£56,389), resulting in a deficit of £2,732 (surplus of £4,285 in 2012). The Urban Soul account showed income of £43,236 (£49,275 in 2012) against expenditure of £45,621 (£53,666), resulting in a deficit of £2,384 (£4,390). The Fabric Fund account showed income of £1,366 (£21,645 in 2012) while expenditure came to £7120 (£7,394), resulting in a deficit of £5,754 (surplus of £14,250 in 2012), although the 2012 outcome had been affected by a one-off donation of £20,000.

In overall terms, the deficit for 2013 was £10,871, as against a surplus of £14,145 in 2012. The opening balance had been £43,216, while the closing balance was £32,344.

The accounts, which had been presented to the congregational committee, were adopted by the meeting on the proposal of Damien Smith, seconded by Elizabeth Acheson.

Auditor: G Kirkpatrick agreed to act as auditor for another year and was duly appointed on the proposal of Andrew Acheson, seconded by Arthur Acheson. G Kirkpatrick said he wished to commend the treasurer for all his hard work. He said the congregation owed Andrew Acheson a debt of gratitude.

Church organisations: The reports of the congregational organisations – Tuesday Circle, the Choir and the Peacemaking group – were taken as read, having also been published in The Greeting.

Congregational committee: Dr Crooks explained that rather than go through the procedure of an election, it had been decided to invite the ABM to re-appoint the committee en bloc. This was proposed by Ena Kirkpatrick, seconded Valerie Morton, and agreed. Members of committee are the seven elders: Arthur Acheson, Barry Bell, Clive Gilmour, Alan Gourley, Robin Hewitt, Jimmy McCrossan and Kathleen Rea; and committee members Andrew Acheson, Valerie Condy, Arthur Fannin, Brian Gourley, Chris Hewitt, Colin Johnston, Gordon Kirkpatrick, Robin Morton and Jenny Wilson.

May Street's future: Arthur Acheson reported that Kirk Session and Congregational Committee had held a special meeting on January 30 at which members reviewed May Street Church's current situation. The outcome was that Kirk Session and committee had reaffirmed their commitment to the May Street principles, which had been endorsed at the 2012 ABM. The principles were:

- May Street should provide and promote Presbyterian Sunday Worship in the city centre;
- Urban Soul is a good outreach facility and should be supported;
- May Street should be innovative and open to new ideas.

Sunday services: Dr Crooks advised the meeting that he had on an experimental basis changed the pattern for Sunday supply preaching, allocating a full month to each preacher rather than changing every week. This was to enable various preachers to develop a theme over four or five weeks.

Closing remarks: In winding up proceedings, Dr Crooks thanked the office-bearers and members of committee of May Street for their work, and thanked all present for their attendance. The meeting was closed with prayer.

ROBIN MORTON
Congregational Secretary

FUNDING BREAKTHROUGH FOR OUTREACH PROJECT

May Street Presbyterian Church is delighted to announce that its Urban Soul outreach project has received a major funding boost which will help it in its efforts to reach out to the local community. We have been offered conditional funding worth £250,000 to develop the schoolroom area of our basement for use for community purposes.

The funding will enable the church, which is a listed building, to open its basement more effectively for community use. The refurbished basement will bring the former schoolroom back into use, and make it fit for the 21st Century. This in turn will complement the outreach operation at

Urban Soul Cafe, which is immediately next door.

The funding offer comes in two tranches - £200,000 from Belfast City Council's Local Investment Fund and match funding of £50,000 under the Alpha (Resource Management) Landfill Community Fund (Tax Credits scheme).

The project has won the support of Belfast City Council which is keen to promote greater community activity in the city centre by means of improving facilities. Alpha is investing in schemes that help local communities grow and develop good relations through investment in the built heritage. In addition, a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations have declared their support for the scheme, and several have expressed an interest in making use of the new facility once it opens.



Taking shape: Alderman Gavin Robinson, the then Lord Mayor, inspects drawings of the proposed development in May Street Church's basement during a visit to the church in December 2012. Briefing Mr Robinson are (from left) Dr Rodger Crooks, vacancy convenor, David McAuley, chairman of the Urban Soul Community Interest Company and Arthur Acheson, Clerk of Session at May Street.

Arthur Acheson, Clerk of Session at May Street said: "Our church is located right in the heart of the city centre and is already popular because it offers a convenient and neutral venue. Urban Soul Cafe, which we launched in 2008, attracts shoppers, local people and workers from nearby offices who see it as an oasis in the city centre.

"This funding will enable us to build on this success story by opening up a further portion of our basement which is currently lying out of use,

and improving our entrance lobby. We expect that this room will be used for a variety of purposes but we are not being prescriptive – it could be anything from aerobics to art, workshops to writing, concerts to classes, and dance to drama. In the past, the room was used for a brief period in a pilot project as a non-alcoholic night club and this would be one of the possibilities.”

The upgrade will mean that the basement will meet modern safety standards with regard to rewiring and emergency exits. It is proposed to install a new ceiling, doors and flooring and to dryline the walls – and to install heating, and as a result, the room should qualify for an entertainments licence.

Mr Acheson said: “We are a small congregation and have dreamt for years of making this space a useful venue. It has always been beyond our means but now, thanks to the generosity of Belfast City Council and Alpha we are now in a position to move forward.

“We are very grateful to both funders and are also indebted to those organisations and groups which submitted letters of support for our applications.”

Provided all the terms and conditions are approved, it is hoped that work will start during the summer and that the basement will be ready for business by the autumn. It will be next door to Urban Soul Cafe and it is expected that the new facility will complement the work already being carried out there.

Alderman Gavin Robinson, Chairman of Belfast City Council’s Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, said: “We are pleased to be able to offer support to what we see as an important development for the city centre. May Street Church is a landmark building close to the City Hall and we are keen to see greater use being made of its facilities.”

Mel Waddell, from Groundwork NI and representing the Alpha Programme said: “May Street Church is to be commended for having the vision to move this programme forward and we expect that this project will be of significant

benefit to the wider community.”

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, was among those to voice delight at the news of the funding award. He said: “Great work, let’s get it done.”

Thanks are expressed to the Urban Soul Community Interest Company which has been driving the process forward. South Belfast Presbytery, which has been supportive of the project, is being kept fully abreast of developments, along with May Street congregational committee. It is hoped that May Street will be in a position to sign the letters of offer in the next few weeks.

ROBIN MORTON
Congregational Secretary

URBAN SOUL CAFE

March was designated as Family Friendly Month in Belfast city centre and this year Urban Soul Cafe featured prominently in the programme of promotions and activities organised by Belfast Strategic Partnership with the support of Belfast Health Development Unit.



Meaningful music: Zak Schmidt and Cheryl Weston played Urban Soul Live on February 8.

The cafe was the destination point for a series of guided Walking Trails which took place through the city centre at weekends throughout the month. The tours started at the new Visit Belfast Welcome Centre in Donegall Square North and were available at no charge - and even included a complimentary coffee or tea and bun at the end of the tour in the lovely surroundings of the Urban Soul Cafe. The tours took place on the hour on Saturday and Sundays only and the cafe opened

specially to meet the need. Walkers received a free Eco bag containing a water bottle, a pedometer and other goodies.



Urban Soul team: Three of the volunteer members of staff at Urban Soul Cafe, from left, Henry Lermont, his wife Maria and John Purse.

The ladies from the church were a great help in covering the Sunday afternoons. Chris Hewitt and Ruby Hutchinson participated in the walking tour on the first Sunday and said they learned many new facts about the city from a really helpful guide. The rain did spoil it a bit but the pedometer gift showed they had walked about 2,500 steps.

A Baby Friendly Club, funded by the Public Health Agency, took place on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday mornings during March. To provide proper facilities, new high chairs and baby equipment was provided in the cafe and we can use this for future Baby Friendly Club events. We know that the Mums and babies who came in to use the club enjoyed themselves and we hope this will be the beginning of something new.

Kids Space was a special day on Saturday March 8, when crafts and face painting were available for children. The healthy part of the operation was that they had to cycle to make a blender work to create their fruit smoothies. Arthur Acheson brought his granddaughter along and says she was enjoying it so much they stayed all morning. There was a real buzz in the lecture hall and the event was a huge success for the organisers.

Urban Soul Live also received sponsorship and we were able to have a couple of special artistes perform during a concert which was compered

by our own Paul Boyd. Rachael Boyd and Josh Burnside played violin and guitar, singing songs written by Josh to much acclaim. Jack and Glen charmed the audience by playing a ukelele and a guitar, and performing Jack Johnson style songs. A very enjoyable evening.

Special thanks go to Janet Frazer from the Public Health Agency and Tom Smith from Belfast City Centre Management who organised the events and funding for the Family Friendly events.

AVRIL GRACEY
Cafe Manager

TUESDAY CIRCLE

May Street Tuesday Circle decided this year that we would not meet during the worst days of the winter so we have had no meetings since our outing at Christmas to Harrison's restaurant at Greyabbey which was enjoyed by all.

But with spring on the way we resumed our programme of meeting on March 25 when Raymond Crooks, alias "The Singing Chef", was the speaker at our meeting. He is a commi-chef and his main task of the evening was to make a pavlova but as he prepared the meal he shared with us his life story and his road to Christianity which was a very moving and difficult journey.



Singalong chef: The Singing Chef gets into his stride at the Tuesday Circle meeting in May Street in March.

Although having a childhood in which he was separated from his siblings, he trained in his chosen trade and through it all has maintained a good sense of humour and indeed had us laughing as well as sometimes being quite poignant.



Cookery tips: *May Street's Chris Hewitt meets the Singing Chef, Raymond Crooks, during his cookery demonstration on March 25.*

I think many of us have baked pavlovas in the past but we all learned some new tricks of his trade and will put them into practice in the future to impress our family and friends. The completed pavlova was given to Avril Gracey from Urban Soul Cafe so everyone benefited from a most successful evening. On this particular occasion we invited friends and any members of the congregation who were free to come along and I am glad to say a good number joined us to swell our numbers.

On April 29 Mr Ian McClure, whose interest is clocks old and new, will be our speaker. Any member who has a clock which maybe does not go any more or that may be very old has been asked to bring it along and he perhaps will be able to advise us as to its age or perhaps get it going again. I think this too will be an interesting evening. Please note this meeting takes place on April 29 - not our usual fourth Tuesday, as it would be Easter Tuesday.

On May 29 we will be heading out of doors on a boat trip up the River Lagan. Hopefully our ladies will be found enjoying a fine summer's evening and once again any Congregational member or friend who would like to join us would be made welcome. Just give your name to Kathleen Rea, Jean McCrum or myself. The final cost will not be ascertained until the number going is known.

In June we are planning a meal, but the venue has still to be selected. More details will be announced to the congregation in due course.

Meanwhile have a great summer hoping everyone will enjoy lovely sunny days.

ENA KIRKPATRICK

URBAN SOUL FOOD SAFETY COURSES



Successful students: *Urban Soul volunteers (from left) John Purse, Martin Kate, Maria Lermont and Henry Lermont proudly display their certificates after passing food hygiene courses at Urban Soul. John and Henry received their Level 2 Food Safety in Catering while Martin and Maria received their Basic Level Food Safety Catering. Congratulations to them all. Urban Soul Cafe is running another course on food hygiene on Saturdays in May. The course fee will be £30 per person but discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Please contact Avril Gracey, cafe manager at 028-9032-5554 for more information.*

THE CHOIR

The choir is looking forward to leading the praise at our services to mark Palm Sunday and to celebrate Easter Day. Both services will be conducted by the Rev Drew Abernethy, who is in charge of our services during April.

Friday April 18 will be a red letter day for our organist Colin Johnston. He will be retiring on that day from Bombardier Aerospace, where he has worked for the past 41 years. In recent years he has been based in the stores department. Members of the choir and congregation send best wishes to Colin for this exciting new phase of his life. No doubt music will form a major part of his day to day activity.

We also send our good wishes to choir member Evelyn Gourley, who recently took a fall at home. Thankfully she did not suffer any fractures but

she was in considerable pain after the tumble. She suffered severe bruising to her leg and is convalescing at home, where her husband Derek will be looking after her.

Preparations are well under way for celebrations to mark the centenary of May Street's famous Binns Organ. The plans include a free organ recital in September and a larger event in October, the month of the actual 100th anniversary. This will coincide with the 185th anniversary of the opening of May Street Church in 1829, so there will be plenty of reasons to celebrate.

I wish all members of the choir and congregation a relaxing and sunny summer.

VALERIE MORTON
Choir Secretary

THE GRACE OF GIVING

May Street was well represented at a meeting organised by South Belfast Presbytery on April 1 at Ballycairn Presbyterian Church, at which former Moderator Dr John Dunlop spoke about PCI's Grace of Giving initiative. The campaign, subtitled "Be Joyful, Be Generous", is designed to invite members of the Presbyterian Church to reflect on their giving.



Food for thought: Meeting Dr John Dunlop at Grace for Giving event at Ballycairn Church are the May Street delegates (from left) Arthur Acheson, Kathleen Rea, Brian Gourley and Valerie Morton.

In a message to church members the Moderator, Dr Rob Craig, said: "Grace of Giving reminds us of the Grace and generosity of God and calls us to respond by being joyful and generous in our giving as we give in proportion to what we have received.

We are a privileged people and God expects much of us."

The four steps to "Transformed Giving", bearing in mind the Grace of God, are:

1. What is your likely weekly, monthly or annual after-tax income from salary/pension/benefits?
2. Make the joyful decision about the percentage of that which you will give away.
3. Calculate the actual target amount in £ to be given away.
4. Decide who will be the beneficiaries.

At the meeting, Dr Dunlop reminded delegates that the offering which church members put on the offering plate helped to fund the work of the church in the service of the Kingdom of God. He said:

- The Freewill Offering (FWO) supports your local church and many central projects
- The United Appeal for Mission supports our local and global witness
- The World Development Appeal gives a hand up to the poorest of the earth.

Grace of Giving reminds PCI members that caring for "the least" is a key indicator of their faithfulness to the gospel, and cites Matthew 25:40-45 as an appropriate text. Dr Dunlop said: "By planning our generosity, we make a difference."

He added: "There is freedom and joy in giving that is totally non-transactional. We cut no deals with God and our giving earns us nothing: everything we need to earn has been earned for us by Jesus.

"Giving, therefore, should never be a matter of guilt. None of us would like to receive a gift that is thrust miserably into our hands, nothing but an obligation. God is no different.

"Cheerful giving means generous giving. The Old Testament taught the principle of tithing, giving 10% of income. Whilst the New Testament does not command tithing, reflecting our new

found freedom from law, a tithe is a guide rather than a command and remains a benchmark.

“The mathematics of tithing is simple – even after 10% has been given, we still have 90%, and that 90% is much more than most people in this world even have to begin with. We should not overlook the hard times that many in our society are experiencing. Every congregation has a wide diversity of incomes. Our giving should be proportionate to our resources.”

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During the ongoing vacancy at May Street, we are blessed by having the services of a number of seasoned preachers who bring a new insight into Scripture. This year, the format is that ministers are taking the services for a month at a time, to enable them to develop certain themes. Details are printed below. The Sunday morning service runs from 11am until 12 midday, and the preacher for the next three months are:

April: Rev Drew Abernethy

May: Rev Alastair Kennedy

June: Dr Godfrey Brown

THURSDAY SERVICES

May Street continues its outreach to the city centre by running a lunchtime service each Thursday. In recent weeks we have been encouraged by a steady increase in the numbers attending and we hope this will continue. We thank May Street vacancy convenor Dr Rodger Crooks for co-ordinating the service and conducting the vast majority of them. We also express sincere gratitude to Charles Maginnes for faithfully playing the organ Thursday by Thursday and to our own Christine Hewitt and David McAuley for all their dedication to this valuable outreach.

Our services run from 1.05pm to 1.30pm each Thursday and are open to all. We regularly attract office workers, shop staff and people who just happen to be in town for socialising or shopping. All come with the same desire - to take time out off their busy weekday lives to spend 25 minutes

praising God. Many of our regulars say it is a valuable opportunity in the midst of the working day to rebalance their priorities.

COMMUNION

Kirk Session has set the following dates for Communion services this year: Sundays April 27, June 22 and September 28.

WEDNESDAY OPEN DOORS

Thanks to Kathleen Rea and May Mercer for organising the regular opening of the church doors at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Week by week Kathleen, May and their team are on duty to show visitors around our historic church. Sometimes people wish to sit quietly by themselves, and we are happy to facilitate this. It gives another opportunity for our doors to be open and for passers-by to come in and see for themselves the magnificent interior of May Street Church.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Thanks are expressed to Colin McKeown, May Street old boy and creative director of Whitespace, for his assistance in moving forward with the upgrade of the May Street website, which is being carried out by an IT company called Xzopia. The project is being finalised but already you will notice a marked improvement in the appearance of our website and in the content. Have a look by logging on at www.maystreetchurch.com

EUROPEAN HERITAGE OPEN DAY

May Street Presbyterian Church will again be taking part in the European Heritage Open Day (EHOD) event in September. We will be throwing open our doors on Saturday September 13 and Sunday September 14 and we hope to get a large number of visitors. A particular point of interest will be the Binns Organ which will be celebrating its centenary in October. As part of the offering at EHOD we will be having a number of organists playing the organ, which should create a lovely atmosphere. Members of the congregation will be

on hand to act as stewards and guides and we would appeal to friends and supporters of May Street to join the team for this special event. A rota sheet will be placed in the vestibule nearer to the time so if you are free, please add your name to the list.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

May Street Church was the venue for the Women's World Day of Prayer service in Belfast on March 7, which was well supported. This year the theme was "Streams in the Desert" and the service was prepared by the Christian women of Egypt. Next year's theme will be "Jesus Said to Them, Do You Know What I Have Done to You?" and the service will be prepared by the women of the Bahamas.

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR ON TOUR



Sound Message: *Belfast Community Gospel Choir, which holds its rehearsals in May Street Church, is heading to the United States for a tour*

Belfast Community Gospel Choir (BCGC) – Northern Ireland's first and only community gospel choir – is getting ready to hit the United States of America for a six day tour of New York and the surrounding area in May. The choir, which rehearses in the lecture hall of May Street Church, has been asked to sing at the New York-New Belfast conference in the city at the invitation of the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Mairtin O Muilleoir.

Formed in 2009, and now into its fifth year, the

choir has grown in popularity throughout Northern Ireland and further afield. Having sung at many major events including the opening of Titanic Belfast, the London Olympics and the 2013 BBC Proms in the Park, the choir is going from strength to strength, and has set its sights on the USA.

Apart from the conference, the choir is planning to perform at venues around the city, including New York City's oldest African American church and Central Park.

Choir director Marie Lacey said: "It's always been my dream to take this choir to the United States – the home of gospel music - and we're so grateful for this opportunity. I think the American audiences will really get what BCGC is all about and we have some really exciting performances lined up to show them!"

Choir members have been fundraising to make the tour possible, and there will be a special fundraising concert in Ulster Temple in Belfast on Saturday May 10. Tickets cost £15 and are available from the Belfast Welcome Centre (028 9024 6609) or online at www.visit-belfast.com.

ROOF REPAIRS

Work has been carried out to remedy the problem of a leaking roof at the rear of May Street Church. The work has involved establishing the source of the problem and effecting repairs. Work has also been carried out on new "nosings" on the rear staircase and the fitting of new lino, which now looks very smart as well as being considerably safer. Thanks to Arthur Acheson for organising.

COLLECTORS

- Apr:** Kathleen Rea, Robin Morton, Jenny Wilson, Arthur Fannin.
- May:** Gordon Kirkpatrick, Brian Gourley, Valerie Condy, Clive Gilmour.
- June:** Kathleen Rea, Alan McCrum, Barry Bell, Robin Hewitt.

EASTER BASKETS

Thanks to Dr Crooks and Kathleen Rea for distributing Easter baskets to a number of members of Ma Street Church who can no longer join us for Sunday worship. This gesture is much appreciated.

DEADLINE

The deadline for all contributions to the next issue of The Greeting is Sunday August 31.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

March 24: Veronica (Vera) Lemon, Tudordale Nursing Home.

Blessed are those that die in the Lord.

HOLE IN THE WALL GANG

The stars of the Hole in The Wall Gang have been using May Street lecture hall once again for their rehearsals. They were in rehearsal for a week from February 27 to March 5 prior to going on a successful province-wide tour.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH



Great designs: A section of one of Keith Drury's works which is now on sale in Bristol.

Former May Street minister Keith Drury, who is now an acclaimed artist, has been named as best selling artist in Liverpool by a big city centre gallery. He has now launched a series of artwork in Bristol with some of the large galleries in the city. His next port of call will be Dublin. Mr Drury, whose five-year stint as minister of May Street

finished five years ago, has been winning kudos in Northern Ireland for his artwork and has been attracting considerable attention in Britain now.

Congratulations to Keith!

FAITH

Faith looks across the storm,
It does not doubt
Or stop to look at clouds
Or things without.

Faith does not question why
When all his ways
Are hard to understand,
But trusts and prays.

It seeks the greatest gift
And asks not sight:
It does not need to see -
He is its light.

Above the tempest's roar
It hears his voice;
And, with its hands in his,
Faith can rejoice.

It fears no cloud or wind
That it can bring;
Faith looks across the storm
And still can sing.

THIS I KNOW

I do not know the depth of love
It took to die on Calvary;
I do not know the shame and grief
He suffered there to set me free.
Nor can I tell how bitter was
His cup in dark Gethsemane,
The pain he bore, heartbroken, poor
But this I know: he died for me.

I know not why that for my sins
His precious blood so freely flows,
Nor fathom why the Lord of all
Did not such cruel death oppose.
I cannot understand the power

Which triumphed over death and foes.
They sealed his tomb 'midst darkening gloom;
But this I know: for me he rose.

I do not know why oftentimes
The skies are dark and overcast;
Nor why, in grave temptations, all
My problems seem so hard, so vast.
I cannot tell what things may come -
Sore heartaches, all my hopes to blast,
The shades of night obscure the light;
But this I know: he'll hold me fast.

HERE IS LOVE

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the prince of life, our ransom,
Shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

LEST WE FORGET

Home of our hearts, lest we forget
What our redemption meant to thee,
Let our most reverent thought be set
Upon thy Calvary.

We, when we suffer, turn and toss
And seek for ease, and seek again;
But Thou upon thy bitter cross
Was firmly fixed in pain.

And in our night star-clusters shine,
Flowers comfort us, and joy of song.
No star, no flower, no song was Thine,

But darkness three hours long.

We, in our lesser mystery
Of lingering ill and winged death,
Would fain see clear; but could we see,
What need would be for faith ?

O Lord beloved, Thy Calvary
Stills all our questions, Come, oh come
Where children wandering wearily
Have not yet found their home.

BEHOLD YOUR KING

Behold your King! Though the moonlight steals
Through the silvery glade of the olive-tree,
No star-gemmed sceptre or crown it reveals
In the solemn shades of Gethsemane;
Only a form of prostrate grief,
Fallen, crushed like a broken leaf.
Oh, think of this sorrow, that we may know
The depth of love in the depth of woe.

Behold your King ! Is it nothing to you,
That the crimson tokens of agony
From the kingly brow must fall like dew,
Through the shuddering shades of Gethsemane ?
Jesus himself, the prince of life,
Bows in mysterious mortal strife.
Oh, think of this sorrow that we may know
The unknown love in the unknown woe.

Behold your King ! With his sorrow crowned!
Alone, alone in the valley is he.
The shadows of death are gathering round,
And the cross must follow Gethsemane.
Darker and darker the gloom must fall,
Filled is the cup - he must drink it all!
Oh, think of his sorrow, that we may know
His wondrous love in his wondrous woe.

LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS

Dark was the night when Jesus suffered,
Dark was the night when Jesus died;
Dark was the night when sin was cancelled
By our Saviour crucified.

Bright was the dawn that Easter morning,
Bright was the path the Saviour trod;
Bright is the everlasting glory
Of the conquering Son of God.

DREAM

If ever you're alone
And life becomes a stone around your neck,
And hard times beckon you,
In your heart always carry a dream or two.

Don't let the shadows creep
Into the hope that keeps all fears at bay,
And love will favour you,
In your heart always carry a dream or two.

A dream is a magic boat
That keeps your soul afloat.
A dream's a prayer the angels wrote,
And only those with loving hearts can see,

So open up your heart and dream with me.
I'd gladly throw away
The gifts that yesterday has given me
If only I could be with you,
In my heart I still carry a dream or two.
In my heart I still carry a dream of you.

SURPRISE

I dreamt death
Came the other night,
And heaven's gate swung wide.
An angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside,
And there to my astonishment
Stood folks I'd judged and labelled
'Of little worth' and quite unfit
'And spiritually disabled'.
Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free.
For every face showed stunned surprise,
No one expected - me! !

GOSSIP

Scarce any tale was sooner heard than told,
And all who told it added something new,
And all who heard it made enlargements too,
In every ear it spread and on every tongue
It grew.

MISJUDGMENT

If you have an enemy, a grievance or a grudge.
Think before you cast a stone.
It's easy to misjudge.
You may be mistaken in the view that you have
had.
Folks are queer, but oftentimes you'll find they're
Not so bad.
When you get to understand what's hidden
underneath,
Something hurting inwardly that makes them
show their teeth.
Bitter disappointments, fear, remorse and secret
pain,
Loneliness, a broken heart, fatigue, and nervous
strain
Try to get at this and make them smile instead of
frown,
Get behind the barriers and try to break them
down.
Many people try to hide themselves behind a wall.
Don't judge them in haste Or better still

BE STILL MY HEART

Be still my heart! We murmur, you and I,
We fret and fret, while precious hours fly,
Be still - the silent they are truly blest;
There is no rapture for a heart distressed.

Be still my heart! The deep, dark night is still,
The trees in prayer, the star above the hill.
Be still - and to this promise softly cling,
The silent hear the great archangels sing.

Poems contributed by Elizabeth Doran