

Holy Week Good Friday

golgatha

READ: Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:22-35

Sorrowfully
the angel appeared
before the young woman
feared
to ask what must be asked,
a task
almost to great to bear.
With care,
mournfully,
the angel bare
the tidings of great joy,
and then
great grief.
Behold, thou shalt conceive.
Though shalt bring forth a son.
This must be done.
There is no reprieve.

2

Another boy
born of woman (who shall also grieve)
full of grace
and innocence
and no offense—
a lovely one
of pure and unmarked face.

3

How much can one woman bear?

4

Pain will endure for the night
but joy comes in the morning.

His name is Judas.

That the prophets may be fulfilled
he must play his part.
It must be done.
Pain will endure.
Joy comes in the morning.

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Cry Like a Bell*

WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXkEzSDwSFM>

READ: John 19:25-30

Mary speaks

O you who bear the pain of the whole earth,
I bore you.

O you whose tears give human tears their
worth,

I laughed with you.

You, who, when your hem is touched, give
power,

I nourished you.

Who turn the day to night in this dark hour,
light comes from you.

O you who hold the world in your embrace,
I carried you.

O you who laughed and ate and walked the
shore,

I played with you.

And I, who with all others, died for,
now I hold you.

May I be faithful to this final test,
in this last time I hold my child, my son,
his body close enfolded to my breast,
the holder held: the bearer bare.
Mourning to joy: darkness to mourn.
Open, my arms: your work is done.

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Cry Like a Bell*

WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2zov3MSTEs>

PRAY

for all the Mary's in our world today.
for all the Mary's who are not able to be with
their dying children
for Parent's who do not understand their
children's choices
for Parent's of those in prison
for Parent's of those who have committed
suicide
for Parent's of hospital workers, first
responders—especially parents of
those who have died