

Stations of Lament: Protest at Covid tearing through the world

My heart burns with anger
O Lord, don't you see?
Then why don't you act?
Again it is the poor who suffer!
Those in this country who eat poorly;
those in this country who live poorly;
the out of work, the poor in health,
those with darker skins;
those who drive us around,
and those who serve us in shops
and hospitals and care homes.
Why Lord?

And if that were not bad enough,
in Zimbabwe women lie in labour with no-one to help
and their babies die in their wombs,
and their hearts shrivel in their chests
that little bit more.
In Syria they dodge fighting
and care for the sick with bullets flying.
In Yemen they have to choose –
do they die of Covid-19 or of hunger?
A basic face-mask costs half the monthly income for a family of four.
Why Lord? Why don't you act?
Why don't you save them?
Are you dumb in the face of our questions?

In the silence that follows my shouting
I hear you.
You have been speaking for a long time.
Love one another, you say.
Let justice roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Loose the bonds of injustice.
Share your bread with the hungry.
Clothe the naked, house the homeless.
Visit the sick and those in prison.
Remember that these are all your brothers and sisters.
Remember that in serving them, you serve me.

Yes, Lord, you are speaking,
calling your people to act;
calling your people to live out their calling,
to care, to love, to show the world your face.

My face burns with shame.
I bow before you.
I recognise that I have looked to my own health and wealth,
And tightened my fist around my own cash – 'hard-earned' is the saying –

instead of recognising it as gift from you.
And I have ignored the little ones you have given me to care for.

Yes, you speak.
Give us ears to listen and humility to begin to put it right.
We can start small, where we are,
And together, we can make a difference
For you, the Lord, are with us,
and you love all your children.
and you will make what we give you
enough to meet the need.

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