

30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Burial

**“Since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”**

Bible, *John 19:42*

### ***Holy Saturday – John 19:38-42***

*This week is about people in the Holy Week narratives  
in whom we might recognise ourselves.*

My mother, father and other relatives are buried in a cemetery high above the narrows at the head of Loch Eil, looking down the length of Loch Linnhe, in the Lochaber area of Scotland. I've heard many people tell me that a grave is important to them, because they feel closest to a loved one there. I've never felt that. I go to the cemetery of course, but it's more for the beauty and tranquillity of the place, my communion with the wonder of the world – of which my loved ones remain an important part, though I never feel specifically close to them there. But it doesn't bother me. Those I love are not confined to a place. Loving them isn't limited to where they're buried. Our love together has no boundaries, in location or in time.

#### **How often?**

How often should I come and stand in silent tribute where you are laid to rest?

How should I be as I scream silently with all the pain of missing you?

What should I offer now through much unspoken questioning?

Will I give voice to my raging at your going?

What should I say of tender love,  
and all you mean to me?

How long should this go on, this pilgrimage of sorrow, this ritual of mourning?

Will answers come – from you or yet from me – to give me peace?

I do not know. But what is clear is this – that on this day,  
and in this place, and with this searing loss,  
and in my lasting love for you,  
I do what I must do.

So I will come as often as I must; and I'll return as time and heart dictates.

And when I'm here, perhaps I'll speak ... or I may silently wait.

And when I go, I will still weep and mourn for you ...

For I can never leave you here, in death,  
when you will ever dwell with me  
in Love's eternal bond.

*Adapted from “How long?” from*

*‘A Blessing to Follow’ by Tom Gordon – [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com)*

#### **A prayer for today**

*Saturday, at a grave. You're not here. But I will find you and know you again.*

*An original reflection © Tom Gordon*

*Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>*