

The Touch

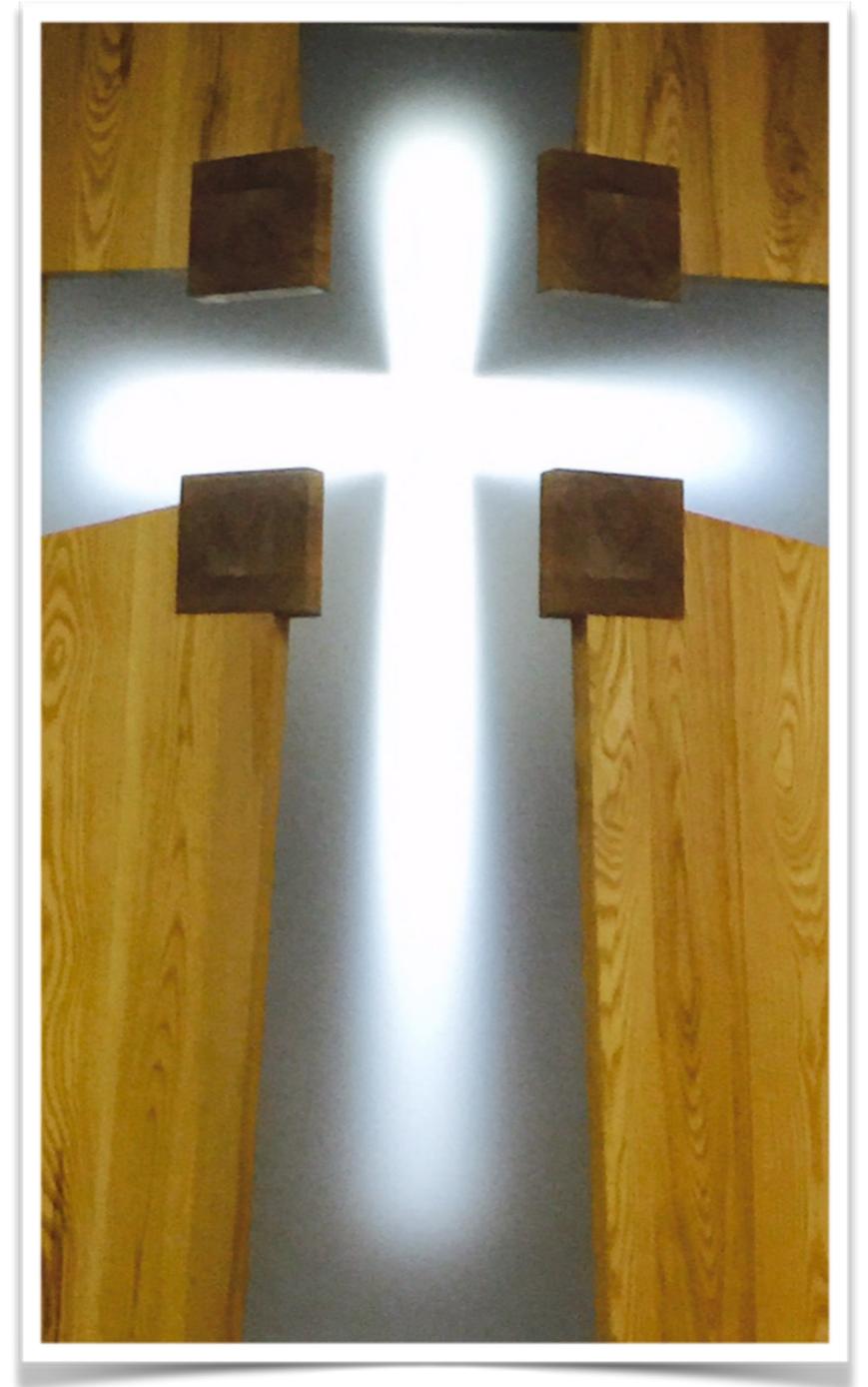
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Be still

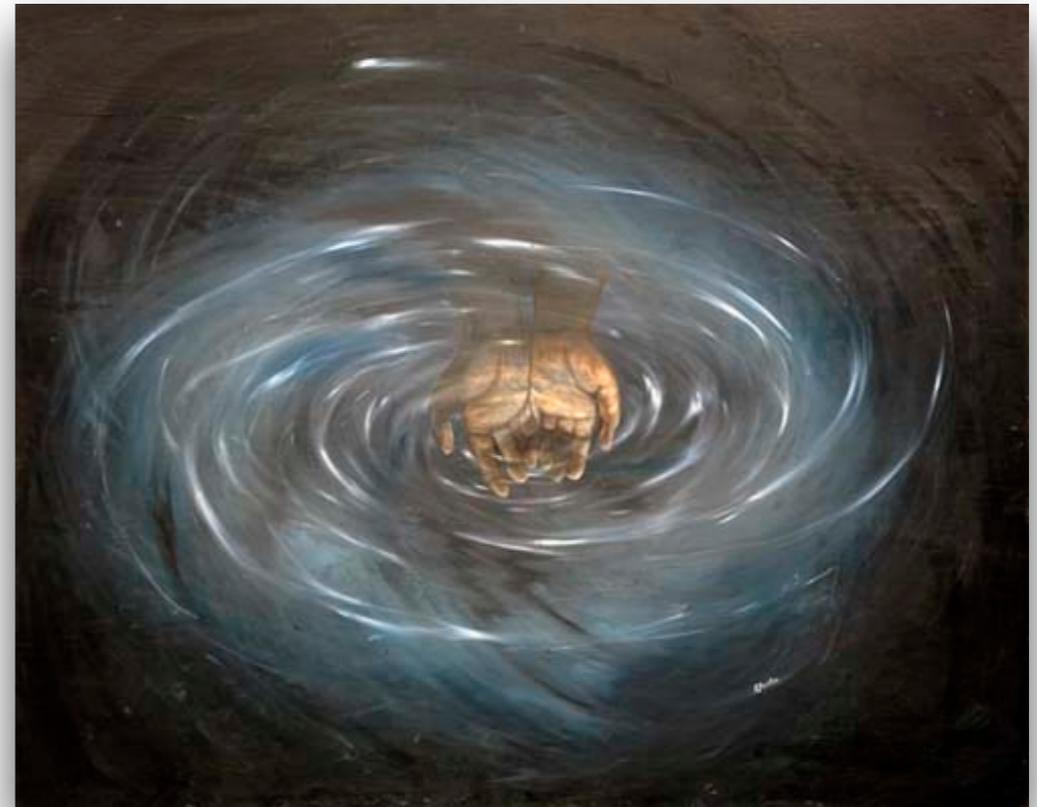
Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee

Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

You might like to click [here](#) to listen to this hymn of worship sung by Audrey Assad.



- Find a place to sit quietly
- Give thanks to God for who He is
- Be aware of God's loving eyes watching over you
- Ask God for the grace of being aware of His touch within your life and upon the world as you journey with Him through this Holy Week



The Everlasting Arms
Kate Austin

Read the passage from John 12 slowly - and as you do, what words or phrases strike you?

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



The Anointing
Kate Austin

Read the passage from John 12 again slowly and where one of the words or phrases catches you stay with it and hold it in the stillness before God

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."



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Now close your eyes and imagine yourself in Bethany at the dinner in honour of Jesus.

- You might like to watch from the edge.
- You might like to be more involved.
- You might like to imagine yourself as Mary with the pint of nard anointing the feet of Jesus

Slowly let the scene unfold.

- What do you notice?
- What do you see?
- What do you hear?
- What can you taste?
- What can you smell?

How do you respond to the words of Jesus?

- What do you say to Him?
- Let those words become a prayer.



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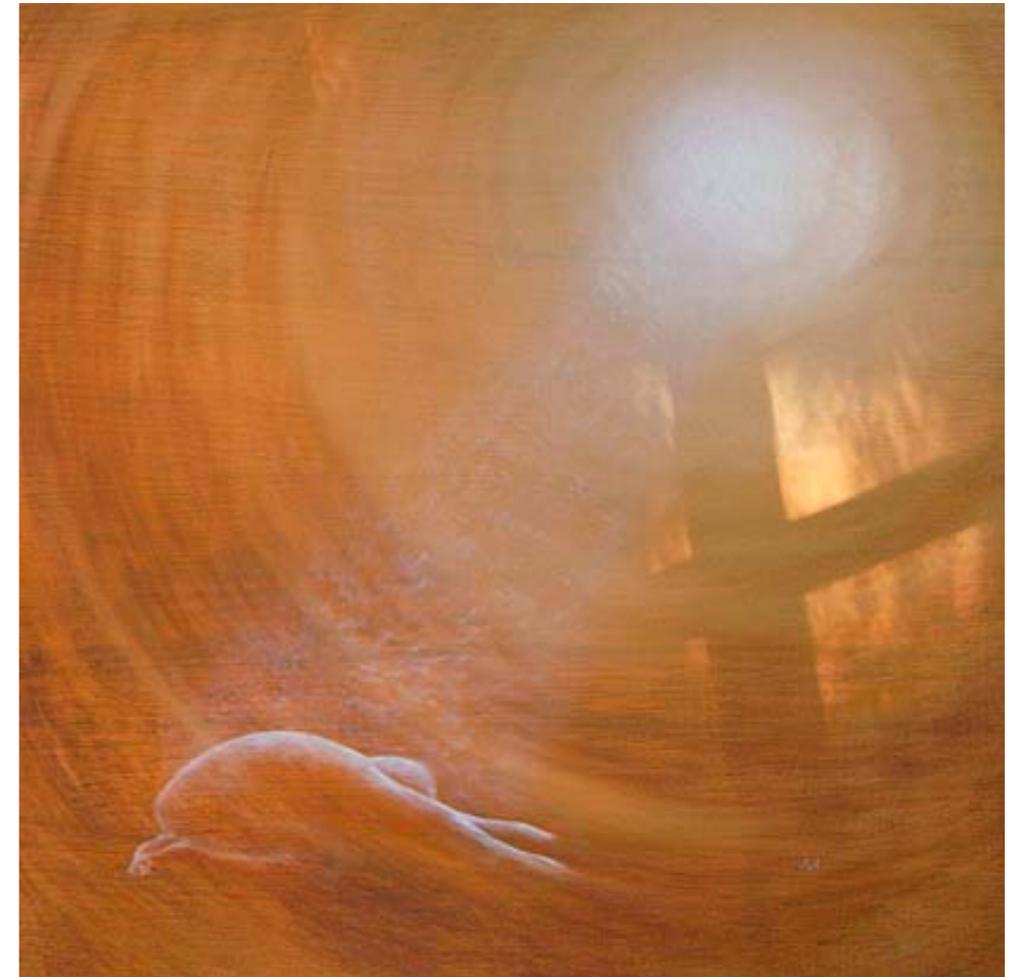
How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?

How have you noticed the touch of God on you and in the world?

What costly devotion might the Spirit be bringing to birth in your heart, as you respond to the love of Jesus for you and for His world?

Maybe you would like to note down what God has revealed to you in this time

As you pray you might like to listen [here](#) to this instrumental piece of Celtic harp music by Nadia Birkenstock



**Abandoned
Kate Austin**

**All artwork in this prayer station is by
Kate Austin and can be found at
<http://www.christart.co.uk/>**

Creative prayer

Perfume

- Mary anoints Jesus with nard, also known as spikenard. This is a very expensive perfume that comes from the roots of a plant of the Valerian family. It grows in the Himalayan mountains.
 - The smell of nard spreads and lingers. It would have remained on Jesus' body for some time.
- Today you might like to create something with a smell that will linger. Every time you smell it remember the story of the anointing of Jesus' feet.
 - Gather some flowers and place in a vase
 - Make a lavender bag
 - You could even make some Bessamen. This is a mixture of sugar and spices that Jewish families use to celebrate the end of Sabbath.



The touch



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