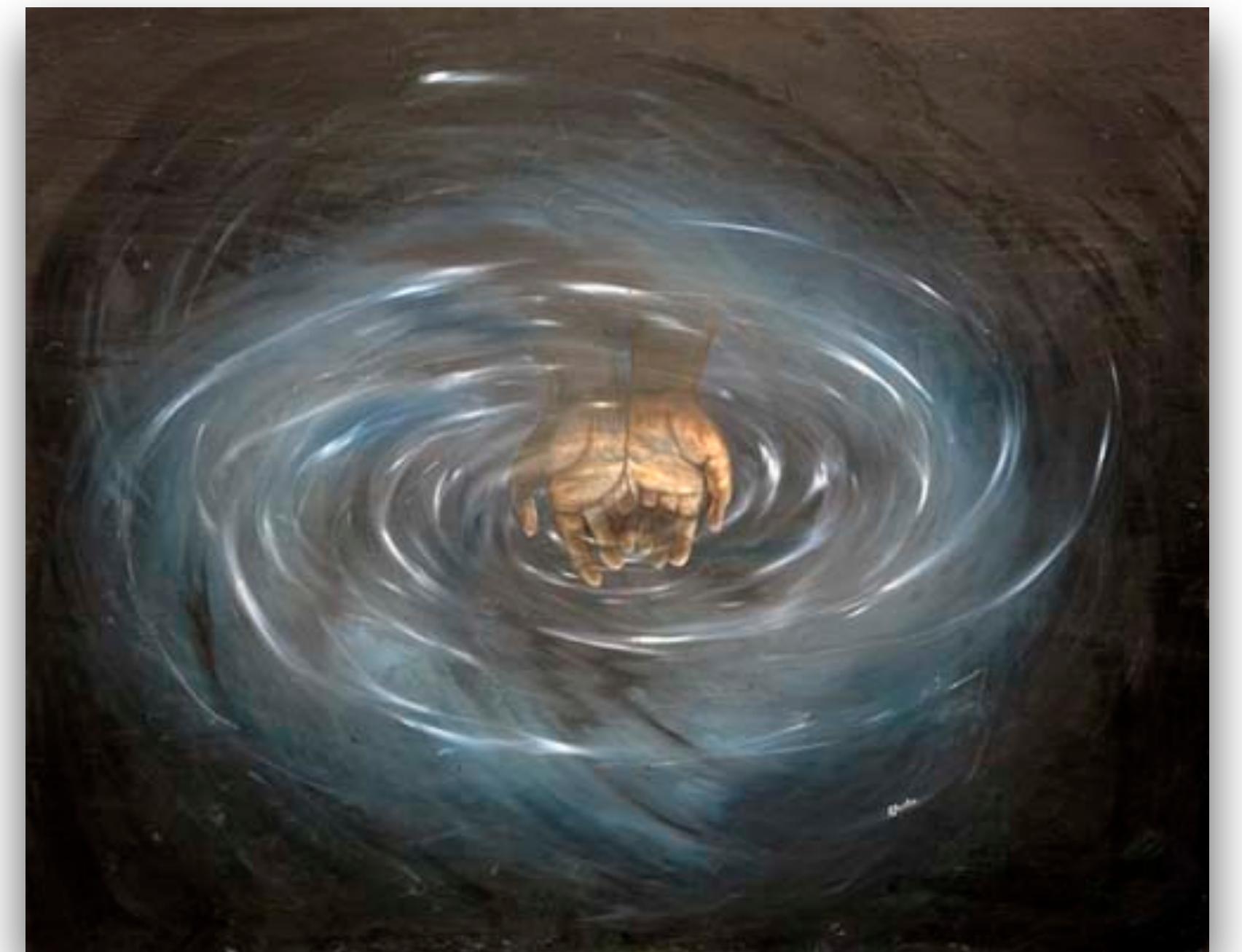




The Touch

- 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

There are two disturbing pieces of music that you might like to listen to as you ponder the kiss in the garden. Both are from an album called *Known by the Scars* by Michael Card.

Traitor's Look here

Judas, don't you come to close
I fear that I might see
That traitor's look upon your face
Might look too much like me
'Cause just like you I've sold the Lord
And often for much less
And like a wretched traitor
I betrayed Him with a kiss

Why? here

Why did it have to be a friend
Who chose to betray the Lord
Why did he use a kiss to show them
That's not what a kiss is for



Sin's Challenge
Kate Austin

Read the passage from Matthew 26 slowly - and as you do, what words or phrases strike you?

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

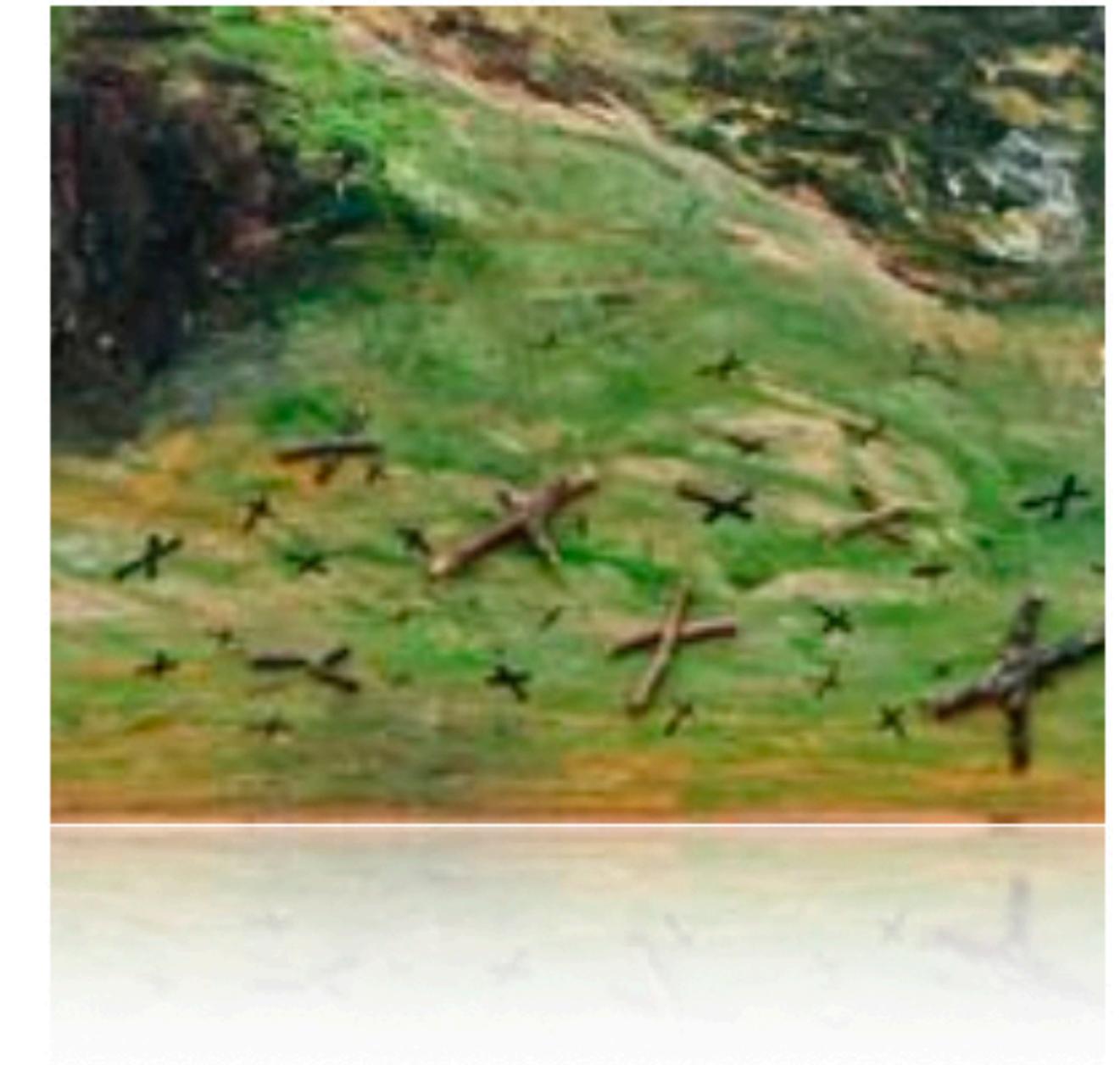


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Part of *The Tree of Death*
Kate Austin

Read the passage from Matthew 26 again slowly and where one of the words or phrases catches you stay with it and hold it in the stillness before God

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

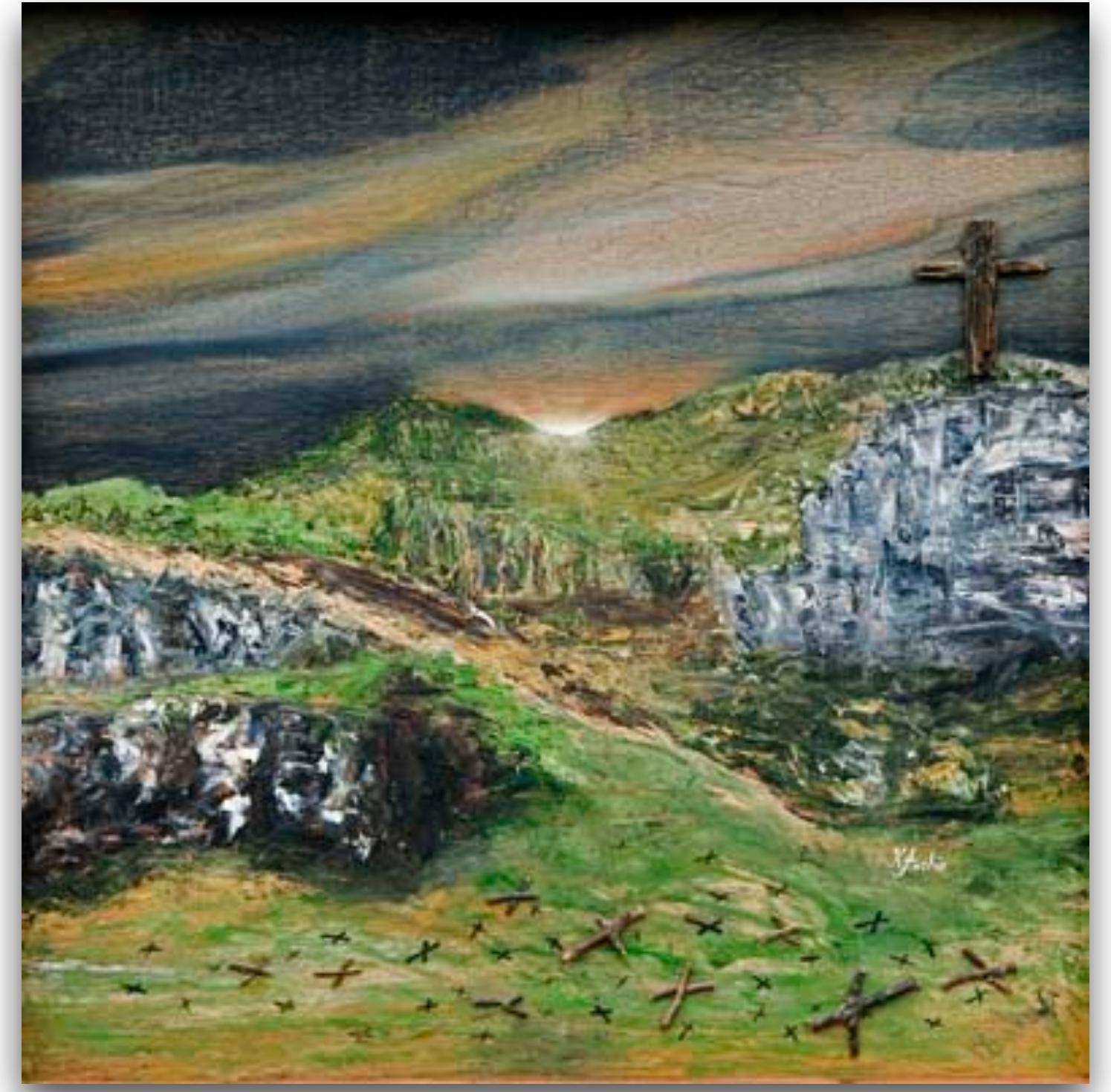


Now close your eyes and imagine yourself in the garden of Gethsemane

- ▷ You might like to watch from behind an olive tree
- ▷ You might like to be with the disciples
- ▷ You might like to imagine yourself as one of the disciples

Slowly let the scene unfold.

- ▷ What do you notice around you?
- ▷ What do you notice in your body?
- ▷ What do you notice in your spirit?



How do you respond to the words and actions of Jesus?

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

The Tree of Death
Kate Austin

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

In what ways have you become more aware of your sin and God's abundant love, grace and forgiveness?

What have Jesus's words been to you?

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

As you pray you might like to listen to a version of *Pulchra es, amica mea* (you are beautiful, my love) by Ola Djeilo [here](#).



Sin's Defeat
Kate Austin

MAN WELL DRESSED

That old voice from the past: 'I was afraid,
For I was naked; and I hid myself,
And somehow I'm still there, lost in that glade,
Feeling exposed, ashamed, and, in my stealth
Still holding the fell fruit. He finds me as
My withered fig leaves fall away, and still
He clothes me, for the way to heaven is
Always to give and give to those who steal.

But now, the skin I'm clothed in is his own,
He makes himself a garment for us all,
At once the Bridegroom and the wedding gown.
I step forth from the thicket of my fall,
Already dressed in every gift he gave,
Gathered and girdled in his circling love.

By Malcolm Guite

From 'After Prayer' Canterbury Press 2019 used with the poet's permission.



Covered
Kate Austin

Creative activity

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered (Psalm 32).

For this you will need

- ▷ A big bowl of water
- ▷ Aluminium foil
- ▷ A felt tip pen

Spend some time with God reflecting back on the last week.

Ask him to bring to light the things you need to say sorry for.

- ▷ Write these in felt tip pen on the aluminium foil
- ▷ When you have finished, look at what you have written
- ▷ Place the aluminium foil in the water and as you do, say the words from Psalm 51:2
- ▷ ‘**Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**’
- ▷ See the writing wash off the foil
- ▷ Give thanks for the forgiveness and infinite grace of God





There is Hope
Kate Austin

The Touch

Poem Man Well Dressed by Malcolm Guite
From 'After Prayer' Canterbury Press 2019 used with the
poet's permission.

All artwork in this prayer station is by Kate
Austin and can be found at [http://
www.christart.co.uk/](http://www.christart.co.uk/)