

race

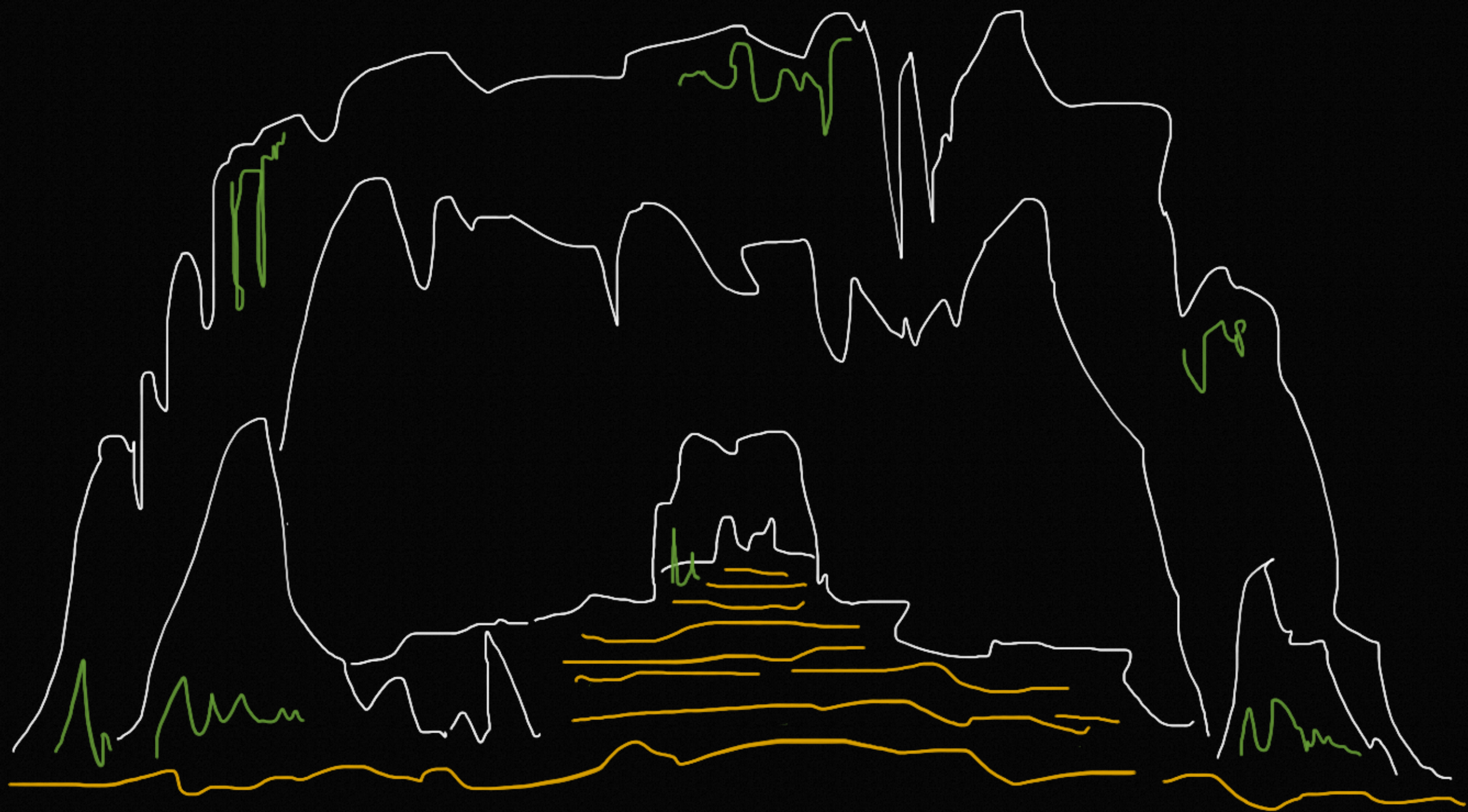
**have a nice desert
play in the sand**

**a desert
that we choose**

**a desert
that we control**

**a desert
that we did not choose**

**a desert
that we cannot control**



jesus in the wilderness

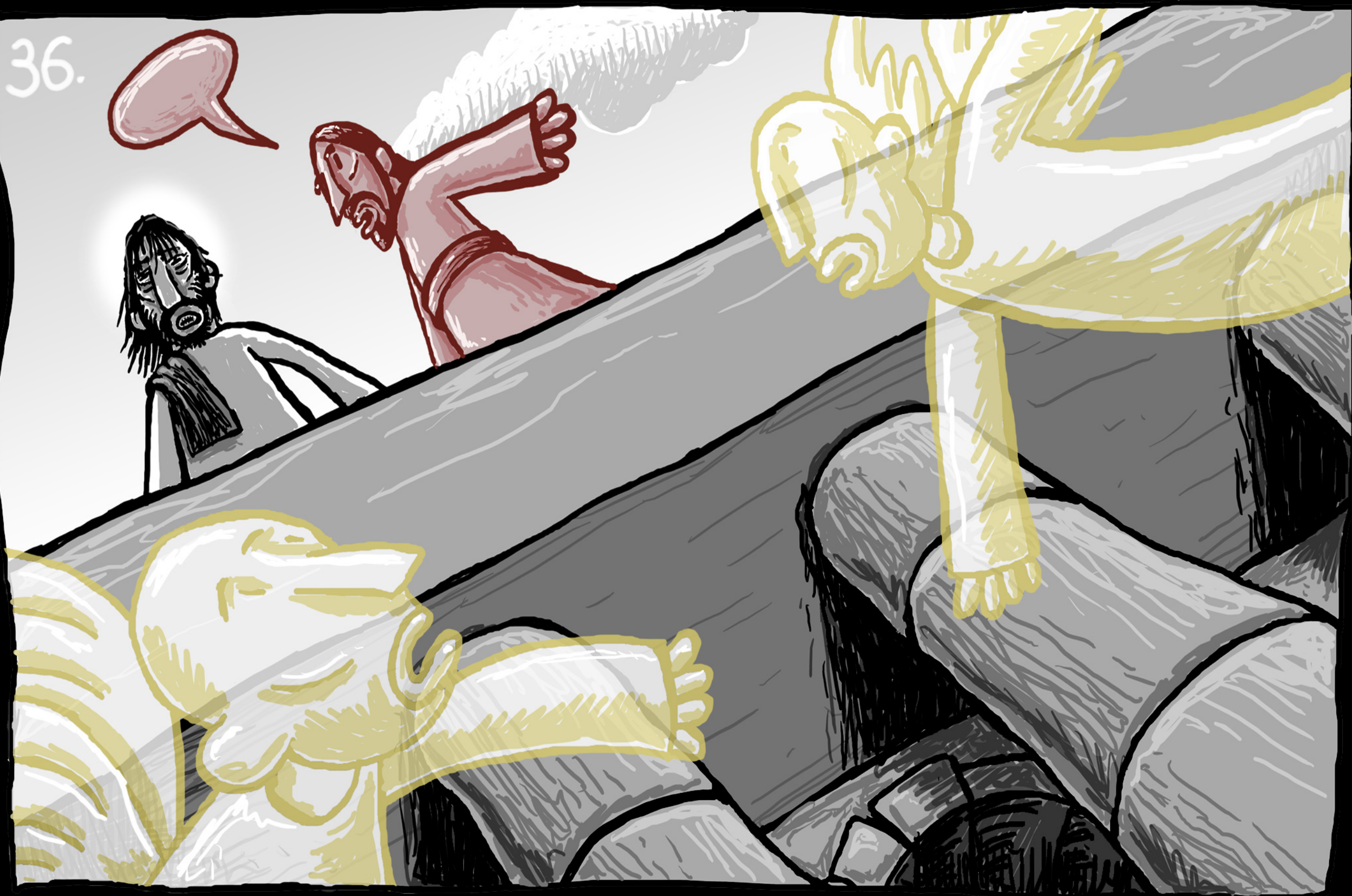
34.



35.



36.





38.



confession

Jesus, you said

“And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? You told us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

We’ve called it scenario planning,
or coping strategies,
or feeling anxious,
or looking after our mental health,
following the science,
keeping abreast with current affairs...

However we label it
We've allowed worry
Or avoiding worry
To prevent us from being

Present to ourselves
Present to our community
Present to you
Present to the gift of now
Forgive us

Give us the courage
to remove one of our protective layers,
dismantle a barrier,
eschew a comfort,
to start out in a different direction in this wilderness

We seek to be more:

Present to ourselves

Present to our community

Present to you

Present to the gift of now

With your help.

This is what we strive for

Amen

lament

Lament

Definition –

- A passionate expression of grief or sorrow
- A complaint

Psalm 22

My God, my God – why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
So far from the words of my groaning
O my God I cry out by day, but you do not answer
By night and am not silent

Lamentations

The roads to Zion mourn,
For no-one comes to her appointed feasts.
All her gateways are desolate.
Her priests groan,
Her maidens grieve,
And she is in bitter anguish

Time to Lament

Switch off your camera

Wait in silence

Write down those things you lament and grieve over

- In your community
- In the world
- In your own life.

Keep your note for later in the service.

Hold Yourself Together
and Pull Yourself Apart

Pádraig Ó Tuama

being refined

what can we learn from god in the situation?

what will we become and how will we continue?

what does god want us to be?

how will we be refined by this time?

Psalm 139

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord,
know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,'
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Read the passage from Psalm 139

What catches your attention?

How might this be a gift to you at this time?

Focus on this as you enter a private time with God.

Turn off your camera for 15 minutes

hope



“Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.

The more unpromising the situation in which we demonstrate hope, the deeper that hope is.

Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

Vaclav Havel - Disturbing the Peace

FOLLOW
YOUR
DREAMS

CANCELLED



A prayer for hope in lockdown

Do not get lost in a sea of despair

Be hopeful, be optimistic

Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month
or a year

It is the struggle of a lifetime

**Our defences
Have become fences
Our fears
Have created walls and borders**

**We look to the one
Who chose to become defenceless**

**Not to smash up our barricades
Not to chip away at the foundations
or to widen the cracks
But to rebuild them into doors and windows,
floors and ceilings
To remove the “No” on our vacancy sign
And to stamp “Welcome” on our doormats**

So may we see you in the darkness
As well as in the light
And may we carry on
When we stumble on the journey and see no hope

So may we stop and be silent
When we don't hear you in the earthquake, wind and fire
But listen to the small voice
Whispering
You have not done with us yet
There is still hope

salt and light

taste some salt

taste some more salt

salt by itself is unpalatable
we can only eat a little
but a little is all that is needed
to change everything

salt can't sit alone and pure
it has to mix and mingle to enhance
it has to become invisible

light a candle

turn all the other lights out

a candle is only small
but the darkness cannot overcome it

when small candles come together
they light up a room
a church
a street
or a nation

salt and light are small things that go a long way

they change the whole of their surroundings
even though they are small

hope is a series of small things
that sustain our humanity

the big things will not happen for us
unless the small things have carried us there

hope is a butterfly effect
each tiny act changes the future

in the end, no hopeful act is wasted

**god of small hopes
of mustard seeds and grains of sand
of stables and babies and upper rooms
of salt and fragile flames**

encourage us to value small acts of hope

**if we can't be the flavour or the food
help us to be your presence**

**if we can't be the sun or a spotlight
help us to be your presence**

**make us salt and light in all our situations
changing them by your subtle love**

amen



We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature.

SONYA RENEE TAYLOR

race