



## RITUAL AND REMEMBRANCE

### **Dedication of a table on a Scottish island in memory of a young man who took his own life in prison**

*(beside a bench previously dedicated to his young brother who died in an accident. Their mother had also named stars in the constellations of Cepheus and Cygnus after her two sons)*

#### **Prayer**

God of the fields and the streets, fresh air and troubled hearts,  
 God who's the only possible source of peace:  
 Be close to us now and help us to make sense of what we're here to do,  
 as we see and touch this table placed here as a sign  
 of the love we've felt for Scott, beside this bench that honours Gary,  
 with all the thoughts and feelings we carry in our hearts,  
 with the faith we have and the faith we don't have,  
 and the faith that others have that we rely on.  
 Be with us and let us feel your touch.  
 Be in our hearts and in this moment  
 that the prayers we say and the love we feel  
 might make this place of rest  
 a place of peace for many weary people,  
 in Jesus' name, Amen.

#### **Reading**

A Re-mix of Psalm 23 (read by a surviving brother)  
 (other resources like this can be found on the website of Young Urban Black Male Ministries)

The Lord is my friend and protector.  
 There's nothing He can't handle.  
 In him, I've got a safe place to rest;  
 And calm instead of frenzy.

He freshens me up,  
 And clears my eyes  
 So that I have power and can see.

When I panic  
 and think everything is coming apart,  
 There's no need to be afraid.  
 His wisdom and power are there,  
 Just for me.

And when stuff starts messin' with my head,  
And it seems the world is about to do me in,  
He can turn panic into peace  
Because help and forgiveness  
Are as close as my next breath.

So this is where I always want to be.

### **A reading based on words from one of Paul's Letter's**

We are often troubled, but we will not be crushed.  
We have many doubts, but we will not give in to despair.  
Although we have enemies, we know we are never without a friend.  
And although, at times, we are badly hurt, we are not going to be destroyed.  
We know, we feel, we're sure we carry in our own bodies  
the death of Jesus, so that his life can be lived in us.  
For this reason we will not lose heart.  
Even though outwardly we are wasting away,  
yet inside we are asking God to renew us with strength and faith.  
So we fix our eyes, not on things that are seen but on things that are unseen,  
for what can be seen lasts only for a time, but what we cannot see lasts for ever.

### **Prayer**

On the streets of our home, God, there are smashed and broken things,  
empty plastic, twisted rubbish, thrown-out stuff.  
Even on this island, down by the beach, along the roads, there is rusty metal  
and worn-out things, junk beyond repair, the debris of better days:  
all these things, here and there, waiting for the Resurrection, like ourselves.  
But in that waiting, Lord, lift us above the pain of it all  
to a place of strength and inspiration with you yourself.  
And, by your grace, bless Scott's table now as you have blessed Gary's bench  
that, at this place of rest, we and all who stop a while  
might catch a glimpse and feel the hope of the resurrection you promise.  
Lift our eyes and those of all who rest here  
to the beauty of the sky by day and the glory of the heavens by night  
that in the shining grace of Cepheus and Cygnus, our love might touch your own,  
and we might start that journey to the place in our souls  
where there is great love, real warmth, feeling and forgiveness.

Lord, by this blessing and dedication,  
turn our lives around, turn misfortune into blessing,  
and our troubles into peace, and give us rest  
of heart and mind and soul, because this we need,  
beyond all else, beyond all doubt, and we need it  
with the blessing of Jesus in whose name we pray, Amen.

Let us go from here, as we visit here,  
in peace and friendship, faith and hope  
and with the love of Christ around us and within us.  
May God be near us, God protect us  
God encompass us and bless us with the grace and mercy  
of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.