

PASTOR'S PATCH



I can't even imagine what it must be like for a mother to mourn a child, a situation that sees some mothers that nursed them as a baby, hold and cradle them as a corpse.

This image imagines that scene, of Mary tenderly embracing the lifeless and bloodied corpse of Jesus.

Jesus the Creator who, in the words of Graham Kendrick, *flung stars into space*, yet who surrendered his hands to be pierced by *cruel nails*,
Jesus the Life-giver who surrendered himself to death,
Jesus the Truth who was skewered to a cross by lies,
Jesus the Perfect One who was condemned alongside criminals,
Jesus the Comforter who could no longer receive the comfort of his mother.

Thus the image reminds us of the gruesome and gritty reality of the crucifixion of Jesus some 2000 years ago, who for our sin went to the cross.

We thank God that this is not the end of the story, but in the hours of Good Friday and Easter Saturday we are confronted again with this painful reality. If we are willing to dwell, at least for a while in this place of the gospel story then we will better appreciate the sheer joy and beauty of Easter morning, the empty tomb, the cry that "He is not dead, He is risen" resounding from our mouths, knowing Jesus is alive in our hearts.

Darrell Holmes