

how long would you wait?

take some cards and place them on the timeline

SENSEOFDOUBT

grace

easter didn't happen for thomas

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

if you got back from shopping
to find your friends telling you that

they'd met a dead person
who came to life again

and appeared in the room
even though the doors were locked
and ate a piece of fish

would you believe them?

how frightened would you be?
what are your options?

mass hysteria, illusion, madness
[theirs or yours]
some kind of bad-taste prank

you know you're sane, right?
because you didn't see an impossible thing.

so where's the evidence?
the missing piece of fish
maybe it's in the cat

[they see dead people
but nobody's seen the cat]

nobody wants to be the fool who's been had
nobody wants to fall for a stupid joke
let's see who lasts longest

day 1

day 2

day 3

day 4

this is getting to be boring

day 5

this is getting to be frightening

there is no psychiatric treatment
in 1st century palestine

there is a terrible choice to be made

abandon your friends of the last three years
abandon your hopes and your memories

go back to the old life
alone and damaged

or stay with people who have lost touch with reality
hold on to your dead dreams
for a little while longer

day 6

the ashes are almost cold now
just a little bit of warmth left

when the last spark dies
it will be time to go

day 7

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

put down all your weapons
let me in through your open wounds

Pray for

those who struggle with doubts

those who have to engage with
other people's doubts

those who are called to demonstrate faith
when all around have doubts

light a candle

We thank you Lord for the story of Thomas
showing us that faith was never easy
and that doubt never breaks your love for us

We lift up to you our demands
show me,
prove it,
give me a sign NOW
our doubts

may your peace be with us

We offer you
our fumbling answers
when others tell us
you are not
proven

may your peace be with us

We offer you
our pain
and reticence
when we hold back from rejoicing
because others can't

may your peace be with us

We ask you
to meet those
in need of peace
in need of blessing
in need of an end to their waiting
may your peace be with them

**We do believe,
help us overcome our unbelief**

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**In peace, we will lie down and sleep;
For you alone make us dwell in safety.**

**Abide with us Jesus,
For the night is at hand
and the day is now past.**

**As the night-watch looks for the morning
So do we look for you, O Christ.**

**The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face shine upon us
And be gracious to us;
The Lord look kindly on us
And give us peace.
Amen**

FRESHMITALWORSHIP

grace