

## Explore the Theme — DYING . . . DEAD

probing the death movement of the paschal mystery “symphony,” through the lens of nature  
for other “Explore the Theme” postings visit: <https://www.shcj.org/explore-the-theme>

### LETTING GO OF LETTING GO

The flower blooms only briefly,  
but so sweetly.  
True faith practices grief,  
letting go and letting go  
of letting go,  
anointing our losses with  
perfume and tears,  
kneeling at the feet of the Beloved  
we can't possess or cling to,  
trusting that the love that aches  
bears us through,  
until grief becomes gratitude  
and sorrow an open heart,  
and loss becomes sowing.  
And we behold the blossom.  
Only the soul that seeks love  
and not happiness  
finds joy.  
Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)



Jesus Tree, carved from a dead cedar by Lebanese sculptor Rudy Rahme



**WATCH:** David Attenborough’s address to world leaders at COP26 —

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-jq4VWdZhq8&list=TLPQMzAwMzlw-MjJA3AXOfkJAPQ&index=2>

**NATURE HAS THE FREEDOM TO DIE** .... [T]he changing of the seasons express[es] a freedom that we might all seek. Trees shed their leaves confident that, after a period of cold, dark winter, new life will bloom. This freedom—grounded in trust—is what we might hope to achieve, if we were to take a lesson from the trees—and from Jesus. **After all, that’s what we see in Jesus on the cross, right? We quite literally see the freedom to die.** We see Christ who, shedding all trappings of riches, honor and pride, accepts whatever is to come—even if that is death, the apparent failure of his earthly mission. He freely gives his life, completely trusting in God. Eric Clayton, Jesuit Conference of Canada & US

**Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth & dies, it can only be a single seed...**

**THE PASCHAL MYSTERY** refers to the unfolding of God’s plan of salvation in Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection .... The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ are different movements of the same symphony of God’s extravagant love for us ... O’Brien, The Ignatian Adventure