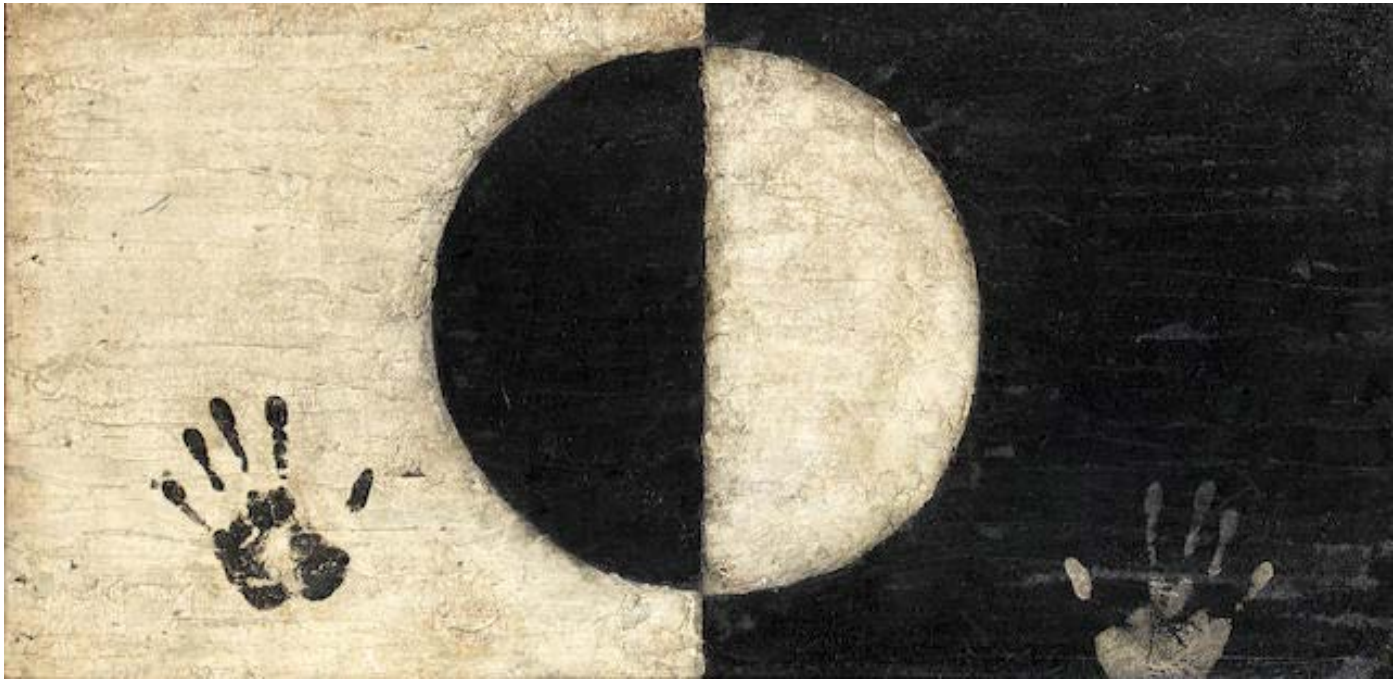


Explore the Theme — PASSING OVER

there's no way around dying, say CS Lewis, Ruth Haley Barton, Richard Rohr, & Erhabor Emokpae
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Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead.

CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



Struggle Between Life and Death, Erhabor Emokpae, Nigeria

Isn't there any way we can be good enough so we don't have to die?

...The Paschal mystery. It is not a rhythm that any of us would willingly choose or even know how to choose; it is usually thrust upon us. Even Jesus admitted to having mixed feelings about the inevitability of it all. *Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — "Father, save me from this hour?" No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.* (John 12:27) **"Really?" we might say. "We've come all this way, done all this work, become this good just to die?"**

What area of my life at this time needs to be transformed through the rhythm of death, burial and resurrection?



"We all find endless disguises and excuses to avoid letting go of what really needs to die for our own spiritual growth ... It is always our beloved passing self that has to be let go of. Jesus surely had a dozen good reasons why he should not have to die so young, so unsuccessful at that point, and the Son of God besides! It is always 'we'—in our youth, in our beauty, in our power and over-protectedness—that must be handed over. **It is really about 'passing over' to the next level of faith and life.** And that never happens without some kind of 'dying to the previous levels.'" Richard Rohr, quoted in Barton