"CONSTANT"

(a prayer based on Mark 13)

*Use a metronome ticking in the background while this is read to fill long pauses*

The world turns

And love is constant

Hold us

There is war

and rumour of it

And love is constant

Hold us

The temples will fall

and no stone be left in place

and the destruction complete

And love is constant

Hold us

Countries will fight

Powers attack each other

states form alliances

seeking excessive power

And love is constant

Hold us

There will be hunger for food

and cries for justice

across the world's continents

through every towns

in our own neighbourhood

And love is constant

Hold us

The battles will be close and terrifying

and battles will be far and bloody

against racism

against unemployment

against child abuse

against crime

And love is constant

Hold us

In everything that is insecure

we know your love is constant

Hold us

Close

So be it

AMEN.

*(by Revd Roddy G Hamilton, Church of Scotland, 'Starters for Sunday', 2009.)*

"NO ENDING"

*(a reflection to be used directly after the Gospel reading)*

Four voices each hold a stone moving closer to a central point with

each line they speak building a cairn together at the last stanza

One

Beyond

Two

Horizon

Three

Tomorrow

Four

How many ways can we describe our hope?

One

Rainbows

Two

Sand grains

Three

Garden Tombs

Four

How many ways can we talk about our confidence?

One

I will not do it

Two

My love for you is too strong

Three

I am God and not a human

Four

How many ways can we proclaim your tenacity?

One

Go and multiply

Two

Go and make disciples

Three

Go and preach to all nations

Four

How many way can we say, 'You will stick around?'

One

I am with you always

Two

God so loved the world

Three

I am the words of eternal life

Four

How many ways can we describe salvation

One

I am the way

Two

I am the truth

Three

I am the life

Four

How many ways can we state our certainty

One

Behold, I make all things new

Two

Behold, I stand at the door and knock

Three

Behold, I will dwell in you always

Four

How many ways can we say 'Yes!' to the future

One

These very stones will cry out

Two

On this rock I will build my church

Three

I am the rock of your faith

Four

How many ways can we proclaim, there is no end, no end, no end to the

love of God, no storm can halt it, no battle can destroy it, not even

death itself and kill it. There is no ending within the love of God. AMEN.

*(by Revd Roddy G Hamilton, Church of Scotland, 'Starters for Sunday', 2009.)*