

## Birthed Into Chaos

*So often we look for a church of certainty. A church that knows what it believes. But the birthing of the early church was not like that! In contrast to the stability and strength of the Temple, the church was born out of the chaos of the rushing wind and entrusted to a group of disciples who had denied Jesus. Why should our contemporary church be any different?*

We look for a church  
of certainty and strength  
a church built on tradition  
a church built on doctrine  
like the temple of old  
standing testimony to Israel's God.

And when the local people  
seek to make peace  
offering to join in the building  
of a temple to the God they share  
exclusivity wins  
and a people are rejected.

The temple stands  
magnificent and proud  
a testament to an exclusive God  
to division and conflict  
it is here that tables are overturned  
and animals run amok.

We look for a church  
of certainty and strength  
a church built on tradition  
a church built on doctrine  
built by Peter, the rock  
Peter, the one who holds the keys.

And a cock crows three times  
before the rising  
of the Good Friday dawn  
Did I not see you  
in the garden with him?  
No I was not!

At breakfast on a lakeside  
the church was conceived  
not with walls of certainty  
or the strength of stone  
Simon, son of John,  
Do you love me?

When they had gone ashore  
they saw a charcoal fire  
barbecued fish and fresh baked bread

Jesus took the bread and fish  
broke them and shared them among them  
this is my body broken for you.

At the day of Pentecost  
the disciples gathered together  
shaken once more  
by the rush of a violent wind  
tongues of fire dancing among them  
and the church was born.

The church was birthed into being  
not of bricks and mortar  
not of doctrinal certainties  
not of stayed tradition  
but of the chaos of a rushing wind  
and the confidence of a dancing Spirit.

And so we gather here  
in a place that is far from certain  
in a place which is falling down  
in a place where future hangs in the balance  
and we break bread together  
and we pour wine together.

*[share bread and wine]*

And we say that it is here  
where faith is born and nurtured  
here where we are called  
to care for each other  
here where the Spirit dances among us  
here where the love of God embraces all.

And we will go from here  
into the uncertainties  
of the chaos of urban life  
not bound to the fetters of the past  
or to stones of immovable doctrine  
but free to journey with Christ.

For we will go from here  
safe in the wisdom we have learned from our past  
knowing that there is nowhere  
that Christ will not go with us  
empowered by the hope of the Spirit  
who dances God's dreams into our fragile community.

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