

In service of the truth

Emily In the beginning was the Word

Jenny and the Word was with God

All and the Word was God

Paul and the Word became flesh and lived among us

Joe and we saw his glory, the glory that is his

Georgia as the only Son of the Father

Elise full of grace and truth

All full of grace and truth

Pause

Emily He came to his own people

Jenny and his own people did not accept him

Paul They didn't know...they didn't realise

Joe that though the Law was given through Moses
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

All grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ

Pause

Aisling So what is truth?

Laura Pilate's question that...he didn't know

Charlie So many people were shouting at him that he didn't know
what to believe

Olivia or what to do

Katharine He couldn't tell the truth from lies

Aisling He wanted a quiet life with no disturbance in that backwater of the Roman Empire

Laura He did what was politically expedient

Charlie It is better for one man to die for the people than...

Olivia Give the crowd what they want and get them off his back

Katharine They were trying to manipulate him to do what they wanted

Aisling They trapped him...damn the lot of them

Laura Anything, anything for a bit of peace

Charlie It wasn't the truth

Olivia Of course it wasn't

Katharine Nothing personal....Jesus.....just politics

Pause

Aisling So what is truth?

Laura Truth is a verifiable fact

Charlie Something that can be proved

Olivia Established as evidence

Katharine Because it has been seen

Aisling Or heard

Laura Or spoken

Charlie It is something that cannot be denied or proved to be erroneous

Olivia An event that really happened

Katharine That was recorded for others to believe...later

Andrew Yes, I am a king; I was born for this, I came into the world
for this, to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the
side of truth listen to my voice

All all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice

Emily Those who live in service of the truth listen to his voice

Jenny So it has been from the beginning with his first friends

Paul Who were really there and saw for themselves

Joe And wrote down what they heard and saw

Georgia Something that has existed from the beginning

Elise That we have heard

Emily And seen with our own eyes

Jenny That we have watched

Paul and touched with our hands

All The Word who is life...this is our subject

Joe What we have seen and heard we are telling you

All What we have seen and heard we are telling you

Aisling Not fairy stories

Laura Nor whim of the imagination

Charlie Nor spinning as we now call it

Olivia To make look something look different

Katharine And not as it really is

Aisling But verifiable fact

Laura From people who were actually there

Charlie Who heard and saw

All Witnessed

Olivia And passed on their witnessing

Katharine Through the centuries to all of us

Aisling We have come to this new century, this new Millennium and
are we any nearer to God because of what they have seen
and heard and passed on to us?

Laura Are we servants of the truth...now...today?

Charlie We have achieved much, we have mastered this creation
with which we were entrusted at the beginning, but we have
also sought to master each other, to enslave others to our
craving, our ambition and our desire.

Olivia The power has demeaned us, and made us act with
inhumanity, to our own ones and to those whom we will
never know

Katharine And we are far away from him, from our true selves, and
from what we are meant to be

Aisling Far away, I am far away, from peace, safety and security,
lost in the void of emptiness that is of my own making

Laura For all I have achieved, gained, accumulated, in the way of
status and prosperity is as nothing in this void

Charlie I am isolated, imprisoned, locked away in my own world,
daily deteriorating, diminishing in strength and will to fight
the force which threatens to overtake me, if I cannot escape
from the darkness within

Olivia There is no hope, no point, no purpose to my existence, save
to exist and eke out a living which brings no joy or newness,
only endless mediocrity and disappointment

Katharine I have worshipped at the altar of self-indulgence, only to be
saturated, bored with the tedium of my own self-seeking

Aisling I have alienated myself from others, from the giving to them, preferring instead to see them merely as instruments of my will, my demands and my pleasure

Laura I have blinded myself to the influence of those around me, immersed in the remorseless preoccupation with my own needs

Charlie I have lost myself within myself, and thus have I lost my true self

Olivia I am perishing in the pursuit of my own good, floundering in the darkness of my own creating

Aisling I have lost sight of the truth or refused to see it and accept it, and I am dying for the want of hope and salvation

All Dying for the want of hope and salvation

Emily This is what we have heard from him and the message that we are announcing to you.

All God is light; there is no darkness in him at all

Jenny What we have seen and heard we are telling you

Paul What we have seen and heard - the light that comes from God

Joe The light that was at the beginning of time

Georgia The light that is, and ever will be

Elise The light that is Jesus, the Saviour of the world

Emily For two thousand years we have seen and heard

Jenny We have lived and died by what we have seen and heard

Paul Martyrs and saints, and ordinary people have seen and heard and lived

Joe So it has been and so it yet can be

All So it has been and so it yet can be

Pause

Aisling In the year of Our Lord seventeen hundred and fifty nine, a Yorkshireman, Fr. Matthew Thomas Norton, arrived in this town from Belgium

Laura on the twenty ninth of June precisely – two hundred and fifty ago years tomorrow

Charlie he came to set up a community to live and work in service of the truth

Olivia and for the next forty years he did precisely that

Katharine and gathered people around him to work and pray and serve – the truth

Andrew If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free

Emily My children our love is not just to be words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth

Ailsing In the year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty eight, a young Yugoslavian woman, Agnes Bojaxhiu, came in service of the truth to the Loreto sisters in Dublin to enter the novitiate as a missionary sister;

Laura From there she went to Darjeeling, India, to begin her novitiate and taught in St. Mary's High School, Calcutta for the next 19 years. But that was not the truth for her

Charlie The truth that she could not deny was that there were people dying in filth and agony on the streets with no one to look after them

Olivia To serve the truth for her was to serve the poorest of the poor; love had to be more than mere talk but something real and active

- Katharine God was calling her to this ...she was certain...and he would not be denied
- Aisling So she received permission to lay aside the habit of the Loreto Sisters and put on the simple sari of the Bengali women
- Laura She set up a free school and eventually ran a clinic. She took the dying off the streets into places of warmth and love where they could die in peace and dignity
- Charlie She gathered others around her and in 1950, her own congregation, the Missionaries of Charity came into being. Now there are houses of sisters and brothers all over the world wherever the poorest of the poor live
- Olivia And the face of the suffering and dying Jesus is seen in them
- Katharine And Agnes Bojaxhiu, the servant of the truth, who died in 1997, will be for ever remembered as Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- Andrew Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they might be one like us. While I was with them I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one of them is lost

Music and film

- Aisling On the night of the 19th of October 1984, Fr.Jerzy Popieluszko, the assistant priest of St.Stanislaw Kostka Church in Warsaw, Poland, disappeared.
- Laura He was not the first and would certainly not be the last priest or religious to 'disappear' mysteriously. This has happened countless times in countless countries over the centuries to those who were true to the name of Jesus
- Charlie But this was different...it was during the time of martial law in Poland, when the government suppressed the free trade unions which had come into being four years before in the shipyard of Gdanzk with the birth of Solidarnosc, Solidarity, under the leadership of Lech Walesa

- Olivia They were too free and too outspoken and the communist government finally banned them and also any public gatherings.... except religious ones
- Katharine So on the first Friday of every month, Fr.Jerzy would celebrate his Mass for the fatherland and ten thousand people would come every time...it was their way of tasting freedom He based his ministry on the truth who is Jesus Christ...and preached him without any fear
- Patrick
(reads) During the infamous trial of Jesus Christ, Pontius Pilate asked what is and ever shall be a topical question: ‘What is truth’? For a Christian, the answer is simple. It was given to us by the same Christ when he described himself, saying ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life’. Lies never soiled his lips. He gave his life for the truth which he proclaimed without fear. Truth is a very subtle property of the human mind. To aim for the truth is to follow a call planted in us by God. So it is natural for every man to follow the truth and abhor lies. Truth is always associated with love and true love is self-sacrificing. So it exacts a high price at times. The truth that does not cost anything is tantamount to a lie. To live in the truth is to live in harmony with one’s own conscience. We must learn how to tell the truth from lies. It does not serve the cause of truth to send people to prison for their beliefs. It does not serve the cause of truth to oppress people and to make shows of force. We must be afraid of only one thing in life – betraying Jesus for the few silver coins of barren peace. It is not enough for a Christian to condemn evil, cowardice, lies, use of force, hatred and oppression. He must at all times be a witness to and defender of justice, goodness, truth, freedom and love. Let us keep this in mind, day in and day out, that when we demand truth from others, we ourselves must live the life of truth. When we demand justice, we must show justice to our neighbours. Demanding courage and valour, we must practice courage and valour in our daily life.
- Aisling And so it was that he ‘disappeared’ on that fateful night on his way home from a service in the northern town of Bydgoszcz – only his driver escaped and the true tale of what really happened to him could be told

- Laura The car was intercepted by agents of the government. The driver fled but Fr.Jerzy was dragged from the car, beaten with clubs and, while still alive, his mouth stuffed with cloth, hands and feet bound with stones tied to them, he was thrown into the waters of the Wloclawek reservoir near Torun
- Charlie 11 days later his body was ‘found’, and while it was never conclusively proved that his murder was ordered by the highest authority in government, this is what everyone believed and the evidence was overwhelming
- Olivia Because of this incident, the government lost any credibility it had left and before long, the communist state had collapsed, freedom of expression was restored and eventually the whole Iron Curtain came tumbling down
- Katharine So it was that this ‘martyr for the truth’ as he came to be known, did not live or die in vain

Music and film

- Patrick I want you to know that I have only ever lived and stood for the truth. I want the world to know that. And if I must die violently, it is better to die while defending a worthwhile cause than sitting back, letting injustice take over, and refusing to take a stand against it. In the history of Christianity, we have many examples showing the extent to which the truth must be defended – quite simply to the end
- Jenny If we say we have no sin in us, we are deceiving ourselves and refusing to admit the truth, but if we acknowledge our sins, then God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and purify us from everything that is wrong
- Aisling Some may hate us but here we stand written by Cristina Odone in ‘The Observer’ for Sunday October 28 2003
- Laura The chattering classes - educated men and women who are comfortably off - pride themselves on being tolerant, sensible and human. Yet they share one prejudice that turns them into rabid persecutors: Christians.

- Charlie Why? Because they sense, in the Christian, a subversive element who seeks to destroy their lifestyle.
- Olivia Christianity is not the only religion to resist materialist greed, promote family and urge protection of the vulnerable. So what are these subversive views?
- Katharine We believe in authority. In an era that prizes individual freedom, Christians believe in a supreme being who dictates our words and deeds.
- Aisling We believe that from an all-powerful authority stems a clear system of judgment which teaches that there is a right and a wrong.
- Laura In a pluralist society, however, one person's truth is as valid as another's. To pass judgment on someone's actions - to say that certain behaviours are wrong – is to be judgmental.
- Charlie But Christians also preach virtues and values such as brotherhood, justice and self-sacrifice. The chattering classes have attempted to erect their own parallel system of morality, one that looks to humanism rather than God for its inspiration.
- Olivia The result resembles the religious model but fails in one important respect it cannot answer the question why?
- Katharine Why should I not cheat, why should I not sleep with him, why should I help her out?
- Aisling The Christian knows the answer to this question. In the face of such opposition, we Christians must, unbowed, unashamed, publicly acknowledge our faith.
- Laura We may not need to sport a 'Jesus Loves Me' T shirt or leaflet the neighbourhood with invitations to prayer meetings, but we do need to confirm that yes, we are Christians.
- Charlie And though some may hate us, here we stand. We can do no other.

Paul We can be sure that we know God, only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him' and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth...

Music and film

Olivia Brother Roger Schutz was a remarkable man. Over sixty years ago he founded the ecumenical community of Taize in southern France in which a large number of brothers live together in community and to which thousands of young people come every year to discover togetherness in prayer.

Katharine On the 16th of August 2005, during the evening prayer at the chapel of Reconciliation and in the company of over 2,500 people, Brother Roger was stabbed to death by a fanatic. He was very frail and over 90 years old, and his blood stained the sanctuary where he had lived and prayed for so many years. He will be counted as one of the great figures of the last century, an outstanding servant of the truth.

Ailsing Together with the whole people of God, with people from all over the world, you are invited to live a life exceeding all your hopes.

Laura Christ is present, close to each one of us, whether we know him or not. He is so bound up with us that he lives within us, even when we are unaware of him. He is there, is secret, a fire burning in the heart, a light in the darkness.

Charlie But Christ is also someone other than yourself. He is alive. He stands beyond, ahead of you. Here is his secret: he loved you first.

Olivia This is the meaning of your life, to be loved forever, loved to all eternity, so that you, in your turn, dare to give your life. Without love, what is the point of living? Without love, what is the point of believing?

Katharine If you pray, it is out of love; if you struggle to restore dignity to the exploited, that too is for love. Will you agree to set out on this road? At the risk of losing your life for love, will you live Christ for others?

All Will you live Christ for others?

Pause

Aisling To serve the truth is to live without pretence

Laura To serve the truth is to accept that you can make mistakes...that you can even sin sometimes

Charlie To serve the truth is to banish denial of any sort from your mind

Olivia To serve the truth is being prepared to pay a price when it may be uncomfortable for you

Katharine Or you may have to suffer embarrassment

Emily shame

Jenny degradation

Paul humiliation

Joe torture

Georgia or even death itself

Elise whether it is a remark made in the company of colleagues

Aisling relatively safe

Laura derisory comments of peers at school

Charlie because it's not cool to believe in anything these days

Olivia not nice, but still safe

Katharine or an accusation made by a repressive political regime

Emily which may result in punishment and pain

Jenny not one bit safe

Paul imprisonment

Joe torture

Georgia or even death

Elise for the sake of the truth

All for the sake of the truth

Andrew I am the Way the truth and the life. No one can come to the
Father except through me

All I am the Way the truth and the life. No one can come to the
Father except through me

Andrew Yes, I am a king; I was born for this, I came into the world
for this, to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the
side of truth listen to my voice

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