‘Life is rough’, said my friend, when I pointed out the notice. And I thought it’s no accident Jesus was a carpenter: smoothing rough edges, making the crooked straight, tapering joints for a better fit. There’s a lot to it when you’re preparing a mission, gearing up to be the Life Giver. And I often wonder how frequently he shuddered when someone casually said ‘Pass the nails’.

Companion Christ, with us in the rough and smooth, may the life we share with you be marked out on us so that none can mistake who’s we are and who we follow.