

WORDS

There have been some stirring words, Father.

Some leaders have been honest about the virus,
frank about the threat,
sensitive about the difficulty,
encouraging about the outcome,
inspirational about the challenge;
Convincing us that we can stay safe
If we do as we are implored to do—
And people have responded.

Words are powerful, Father.
When the right words,
from the right people,
at the right time,
are delivered in the right way,
People respond.

They responded to Jesus, too:
To his words of compassion
and truth,
and inspiration,
and love;
Pointing the way to you.

Are my words like that, Father?
Do my words lift people?
Do my words point them to you?

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?' ... From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' (John 6: 60, 66–68, NIV)