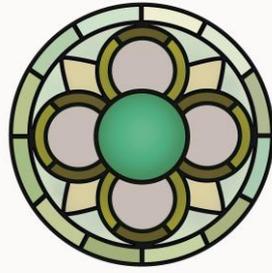


St Mary
OATLANDS
Loving, Serving, Growing



A virtual meditative service on the Stations of the Cross



6th April 2020

Introduction

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late fourteenth century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside churches, and occasionally outside them.

The number of stations has varied immensely through the centuries from as few as five to as many as thirty-six, but the now traditional number of fourteen was established by Clement XII in 1731 – nine scriptural stations and a further five based on popular devotion.

This booklet follows the traditional Stations of the Cross and the shape of the worship at each station follows Common Worship: Times and Seasons.

The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Matthew 16.24,25

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2.13,14

Let us pray.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death on the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

1

Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency: be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice: change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace.

To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

2

Jesus receives the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem: be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength. You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross: help us to realise the extent of the cost of your love for us. To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

3

Jesus falls for the first time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, in stumbling and falling you became completely like us: you became a compassionate and trustworthy high priest, able to atone for our sins. Because you have been through temptation you are able to help us who are tempted. We pray your healing touch on all who suffer, especially those who suffer from Coronavirus.

To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

4

Jesus is met by his blessed mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were obedient to you mother:
she loved you as immeasurably as any mother loves her child.
Give strength to all who see their children suffer,
and comfort them.

We pray especially for all families as they are self-isolation or social distancing, for those with sick children and for those who are unable to have one.

To you, Jesus, son of Mary,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

5

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
We pray for all who work in the frontlines, those in the NHS,
the police, social services, teachers
and all who make our cross easier to bear at this time
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.
Help us also to play our part in
helping others in carrying their crosses.
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion
and in need of help, be honour and glory with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

6

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mathew

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we imagine Veronica wiping your sweat riven face: be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress. You brought your healing love to the rejected, the sick and the abused: inspire us to reach out to those in need in our world today. We pray for all those who are "sweating" about today and tomorrow. Lord may their tears be weeps be wiped by your love, grace and compassion.

To you, Jesus, who suffered unbearable pain, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

7

Jesus falls for the second time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made
us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have
gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has
laid on him the iniquity of us all.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, man of sorrows and familiar with suffering:
be with those who fall and who call us to help them.
You endured unbearable abuse:
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.
We pray for those who are enslaved and abused in their
relationships, work or by substance they consume.
To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Holy God

**holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

8

The women of Jerusalem

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to Luke

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:
move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':
we pray that you embrace the tears of our communities, country and world.
Bless our world today and lead us to the path of profound peace.
To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

9

Jesus falls for the third time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the first letter of Peter

'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'
When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear and faced the agony of your impending death: be with those who share that agony and face death unwillingly this day. You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity: give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.

To you, Jesus, who sweated blood, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

10

Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to John

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were stripped of your clothes by uncaring soldiers: draw those who abuse others into the realm of your love. You forgave those who knew no better: give us courage to forgive those who abuse us. To you, Jesus, stripped of everything, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

11

Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.'

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh: transform through the mystery of you love the pain of those who suffer.

To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

12

Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to Mark

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

13

Jesus is taken down from the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to John

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died abandoned by all but a very few:
be with those who have been deserted by their friends.
You were cared for after death by Joseph and Nicodemus:
be with those who risk persecution for their faithfulness.
To you, Jesus, your broken body taken for burial,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

14

Jesus is placed in the tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to John

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:
be with those who feel worthless
and as nothing in the world's eyes.
You were lead in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:
be with all who suffer and die in secret,
hidden from the eyes of the world.
To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

A brief moment of silence follows.

The Conclusion

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered
and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever,
Amen.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Christ was manifested in the body,
vindicated in the spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
glorified in high heaven.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.
Amen.

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