

Pause, Ponder, Pray

The Walk of Jesus Christ

Stations of the Cross

for this time of isolation & suffering

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross depict through artistic expression the path that Christ walked on the day of his crucifixion.

This walk, a journey through passion and prayer,
also known as the Way of the Cross,

functions as devotion during the Lenten season for centuries.

The Stations of the Cross experience has great significance for the
Lenten and Holy Week season of 2020.

Our world faces a pandemic affecting our health and all aspects of daily living.

This virtual prayer walk provides an opportunity to pause, ponder, and pray
while you reflect on Christ's journey

and your own journey during this time of isolation and suffering.

The stations in this presentation are illustrated with photography
provided by members of Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville,
as well as one United Methodist member at-large.

The stations prescribed for this Way of the Cross are found in the United Methodist Book of Worship.

The scriptures are from the Common English Bible.

Photographers are credited on the bottom right of the page.

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Station 1: Jesus Prays Alone

Luke 22:39-44

Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives,
as was his custom, and the disciples followed him.

When he arrived, he said to them,

“Pray that you won’t give in to temptation.”

He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw,
knelt down, and prayed.

He said,

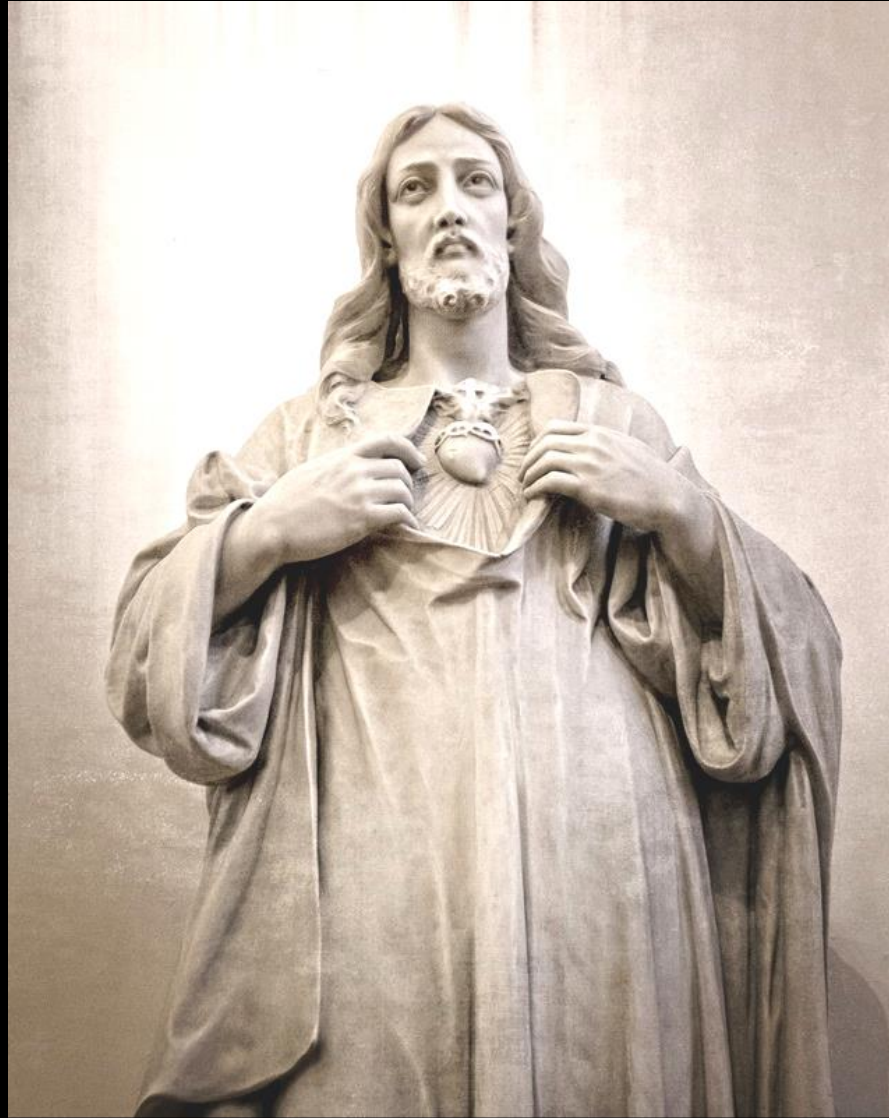
“Father, if it’s your will, take this cup of suffering away from me.

However, not my will but your will must be done.”

Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him.

He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly.

His sweat became like drops of blood falling
on the ground.



*In this
time of
isolation
will you
pray?*

Jesus prays alone.

*In this time
of isolation,
where will
you pray?*



Jesus prays alone.

Station 2: Jesus is Arrested

Matthew 26:47-56

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people.

His betrayer had given them a sign: "Arrest the man I kiss."

Just then he came to Jesus and said, "Hello, Rabbi." Then he kissed him.

But Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do."

Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest's slave, he cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him,

"Put the sword back into its place.

All those who use the sword will die by the sword.

Or do you think that I'm not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?"

Then Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn't arrest me. But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.



*In this
time of
isolation,
will you
pray for
those
seeking
safety?*

Jesus is arrested.

Station 3: Sanhedrin tries Jesus

Mark 14:61-64

But Jesus was silent and didn't answer.

Again, the high priest asked,

"Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?"

Jesus said,

"I am. And you will see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds."

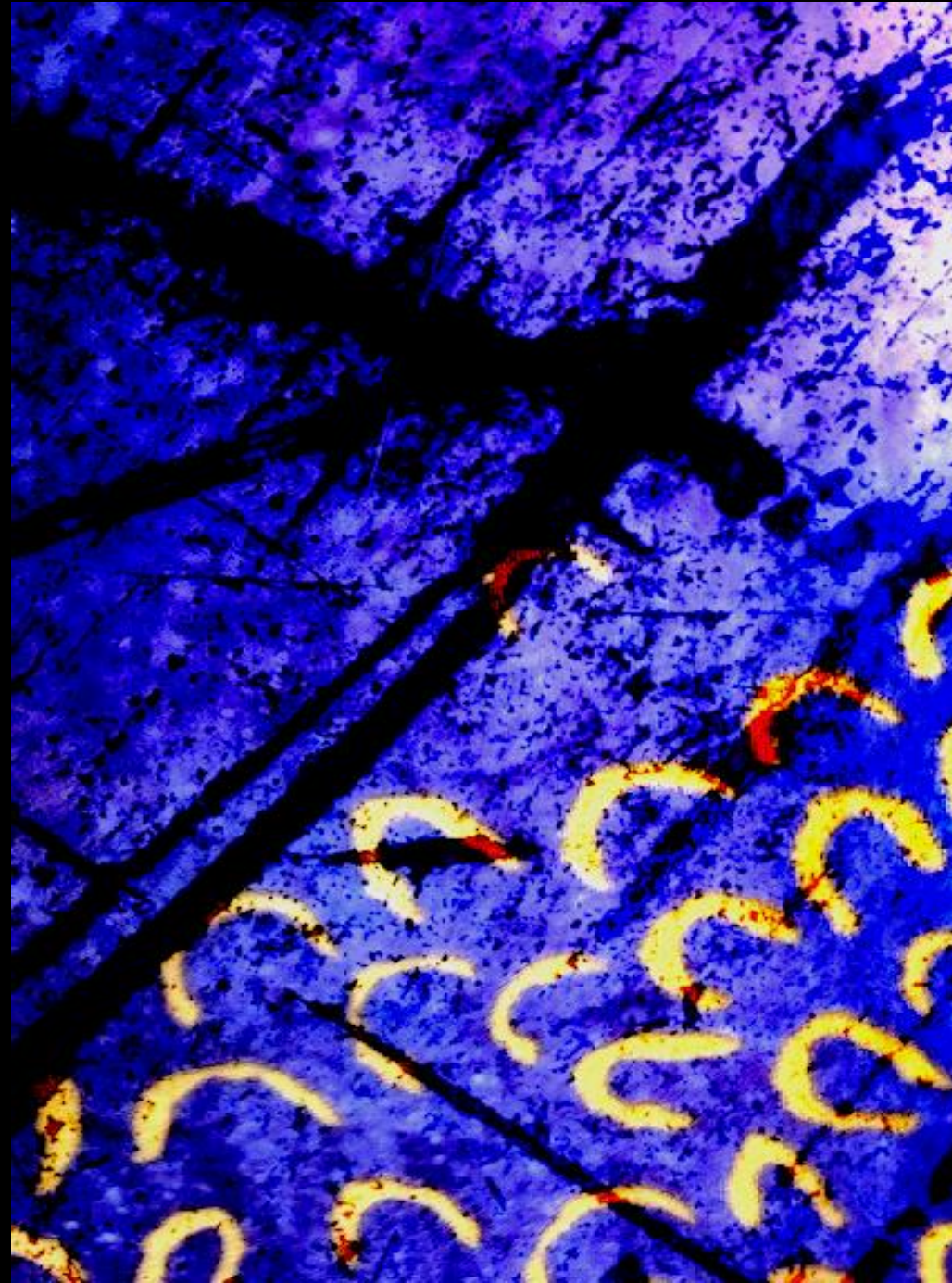
Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

. "Why do we need any more witnesses?

You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?"

They all condemned him.

"He deserves to die!"



*In this time of
isolation,
do you wonder,
“Where is the
Christ?”*

*Do you ask,
“Are you the
Christ?”*

The Sanhedrin tries Jesus.

Sharon
Brown
Christopher

Station 4: Pilate tries Jesus

John 18:33-37

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked,

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered,

“Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?”

Pilate responded,

“I’m not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me.

What have you done?”

Jesus replied, “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world.

If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish

leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.”

“So you are a king?” Pilate said.

Jesus answered,

“You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice.”



*In this
time of
isolation,
where is
your
kingdom?*

Pilate tries Jesus.



Pilate tries Jesus.

*In this time of
isolation,
will you pray,
“Bring in your
kingdom
so that your
will is done on
earth as it’s
done in
heaven?”*

Sharon
Brown
Christopher

Station 5: Pilate Sentences Jesus

Mark 15:6-15

During the festival, Pilate released one prisoner to them, whomever they requested.

A man named Barabbas was locked up with the rebels
who had committed murder during an uprising.

The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did.

Pilate answered them, "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

Pilate replied, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done?"

They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them.

He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.



Pilate sentences Jesus.

*In this time of
isolation,
do you pray
for the crowds
who cry,
“Crucify him?”*



Pilate sentences Jesus.

*In this time of isolation,
do you ask,
“What crime have we done?”*

Sharon
Brown
Christopher

Station 6: Jesus wears the Crown

John 19:5

When Jesus came out,
wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe,
Pilate said to them, "Here's the man."



*In this time
of isolation
and suffering,
what painful
crown do you
wear?*

Jesus Wears the Crown.

Station 7: Jesus carries his Cross

John 10:17-18

“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to.

I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again.

I received this commandment from my Father.”

John 19: 17

Carrying his cross by himself,

he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*).



*In this time
of isolation,
what cross
do you carry?*

Jesus carries his Cross.

Station 8: Simon carries the Cross

Luke 23:26

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene,
who was coming in from the countryside.
They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus.



*In this
time of isolation
and suffering,
what cross will you
be compelled
to carry
for each other?*

Simon carries the Cross.

*In this
time of
isolation and
suffering,
what cross
will you choose
to carry
for each other?*



Simon carries the Cross.

Station 9: Jesus Speaks to the Women

Luke 23:27-31

A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him.

Jesus turned to the women and said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me.

Rather, cry for yourselves and your children.

The time will come when they will say,

“Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant,
the wombs that never gave birth,
and the breasts that never nursed a child.”

Then *they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us,” and to the hills, “Cover us.”*
If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Mother and children: Guba, Ethiopia



*In this time of
isolation and distress,
will you pray
for the mothers of the world?*

Jesus Speaks to the women.

Mike
Dubose

Station 10: Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23:33-34

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."

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.



*In this time of
suffering,
can you pray
for the
forgiveness
of yourself
and others?*

Jesus is crucified.

Station 11: Criminals speak to Jesus

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him,

“Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him,

“Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die?

We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did.

But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”



*In this
time of
isolation and
distress,
will you have
mercy for
others?*

Criminals speak to Jesus.

*In this time of
isolation
and distress,
will you
accept the
mercy of Christ?*



Criminals speak to Jesus.

Station 12: Jesus speaks to Mary and John

John 19: 25b-27

Jesus's mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved
standing nearby, he said to his mother,
"Woman, here is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

*In this time of
isolation and suffering,
will you care for those
who cannot
care for themselves?*

*Will you accept
the care
others offer to you?*



Jesus speaks to Mary and John.

Station 13: Jesus dies on the Cross

John 19: 28-34

After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.

When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed."

Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down.

Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus.

When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs.

However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.



Jesus dies on the Cross.

Station 14: Jesus is laid in the Tomb

John 19:28 –30

After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."
A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.
When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed."
Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

Luke 23:44

It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, while the sun stopped shining.
Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle.
Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I entrust my life."
After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

Easter at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia



*In this time
of isolation,
how will
you find
your faith
in the darkness?*

Jesus is laid in the Tomb.



*In this time
of isolation,
how will
you find your
Light
in the darkness?*

Jesus is laid in the Tomb.