

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 24th March 2021



The Gathering

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

All 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)

Word of welcome are given after which the minister says
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 upon 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.

All Amen.

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

Thirteenth Station: *Jesus dies on the cross*

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

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.

(Mark 15.34-37)

We have a period of silence followed by a musical reflection.

Reflection by Philip North

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.

All Amen.

This station concludes with a musical meditation based on the Stabat Mater ('the mother was standing') – title of a Latin hymn about the suffering of the Virgin Mary during the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus laid in the tomb

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

(Mark 15.46)

We have a period of silence followed by a musical reflection.

Reflection by Philip North

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 laid 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.

All Amen.

This station concludes with a musical meditation based on the Stabat Mater.

Fifteenth Station: *Jesus risen from the dead*

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

(Mark 16.4-8)

We have a period of silence followed by a musical reflection.

Reflection by Paula Gooder

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were dead but now you are alive:
transform the torments of this world's sin
that we may see your radiant glory.
You were raised from death to life:
may the power of your resurrection live in us,
that we may be channels of your true life beyond measure.
To you, Jesus, who have broken free from the bonds of death,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

This station concludes with a musical meditation based on the Stabat Mater.

The Conclusion

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

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and 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.

All Amen.

Music Meditation

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.

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

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

All **Amen.**

We depart in silence.

*Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Stations
of the Cross services over these past five weeks.*

*Especially to Andy Smith, Daniel & Esther King Smith,
Jeanette Ager and David Henson.*