

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 8th March 2023



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.**

Fourth Station: *Peter denies Jesus*

**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 that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

(Mark 14.72)

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

Reflection by Joe Roberts

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship denied:
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.
You understood the fear within Peter:
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,
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.

Fifth Station: Jesus judged by Pilate

**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.

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.

(Mark 15.14,15)

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

Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

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.

All Amen.

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

Sixth Station:

Jesus scourged and crowned with thorns

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.

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns
into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail,
King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and
knelt down in homage to him.

(Mark 15.17-19)

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

Reflection by Paula Gooder

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.
You endured unbearable abuse:
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.

To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns,
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

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

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.**

Musical meditation – Love unknown

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.

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.