

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 15th 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.**

Seventh Station: *Jesus carried 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.

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.

(Mark 15.20)

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

Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

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 realize the extent and 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.

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.

Eighth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry 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.

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.

(Mark 15.21)

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

Reflection by Paula Gooder

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
give us the humility to receive aid from others.
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.

All Amen.

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

Ninth Station: *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

**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 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?'

(Luke 23.27-31)

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

Reflection by Daniel King Smith

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':
bless Jerusalem this day and lead it 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.

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 – Beneath the cross

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.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **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.