

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 22nd March 2023



The Gathering

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

All Amen.

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)*

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.**

Tenth Station: *Jesus is crucified*

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 crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

(Mark 15.24)

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

Reflection by Joe Roberts

Prayer

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

All Amen.

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

Eleventh Station: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief

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.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

(Luke 23.39-43)

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

Reflection by Daniel King Smith

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief:
hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.
You spoke words of love in your hour of death:
help us to speak words of life to a dying world.
To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,
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.

Twelfth Station:

Jesus on the cross; his mother and his friend

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 John.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

(John 19.26,27)

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

Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend
stayed with you to the bitter end,
yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:
be with all broken families today
and care for those who long for companionship.
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:
give us a love for one another
that is stronger even than the fear of death.
To you, Jesus, loving in the face 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

**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

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.