

*A Joint Service of Faith Congregational Church, Immanuel Congregational Church,  
Center Church, Manatial de Gracia & Riverfront Family Church in the City of Hartford.*

# **THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

## **GOOD FRIDAY**



*April 3, 2026      3 PM*

*Immanuel Congregation Church, UCC*

*It is an ancient tradition to walk the Stations of the Cross,  
reliving the passion and death of Jesus Christ.*

*Today, we witness our faith as one church, celebrating Good Friday.*

*Silent prayer.*

## WELCOME & ORIENTATION TO THE DAY

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Blessed be our God.

**All: Forever and ever. Amen.**

One: We have tasted the goodness of the word of God.

**All: And yet, we often fall away from it, crucifying Jesus anew.**

One: Again and again, we tell the story.

**All: And again and again, we find ourselves here—in the story.**

One: For as often as necessary, let us relive it so that, with God's help, we will no longer repeat it. Let us pray

### INVOCATION (unison)

**Holy God, as we journey through this familiar story, help us to understand it anew. Show us, O God, where and why we find ourselves here again and again, and move us toward a more just future. Amen.**

HYMN Go to Dark Gethsemene v. 1 & 2

1. Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, You who feel the  
 2. Fol - low to the judg-ment hall; View the Lord of  
 3. Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; There, a - dor-ing  
 4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid his

4

tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;  
 life ar-raigned: O the worm-wood and the gall!  
 at His feet, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath-less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom;

7

Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
 O the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf-fring,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete: "It is fin-ished!"  
 Who hath tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He

## 1. THE FIRST STATION: *Jesus is Condemned to Death*

### John 19:1-5

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

One: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

One: Lord, have mercy.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(You are invited to recite the Lord's prayer in the language of your choice.)*

Kennedy Brewer was sentenced to death by the State of Mississippi for a murder he did not commit. Though DNA evidence overturned his conviction, prosecutors intended to retry him and he remained incarcerated for five more years before his release.

Habib Wahir Abdal served 16 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. He was exonerated after DNA evidence ruled him out as a suspect. Six years later, he passed away.

In 1983, George Allen, Jr. was wrongly convicted of capital murder, rape, sodomy, and first-degree burglary. He served 30 years of a 95-year sentence before being exonerated. He died three years later.

**All: Again and again, our lips and laws bear false witness against our neighbors. Holy One, save us from this appetite for injustice, and turn our hearts toward truth<sup>1</sup>.**

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day:  
for all who are imprisoned, justly or unjustly; for those who hold others prisoner;  
for all those who are tortured or who torture; for those held prisoner by disease, poverty, famine, or disaster; for those bound by fear or loneliness.  
We pray also for all those we name now, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who became prisoner for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Statements from *The Innocence Project (TIP)*, founded in 1992 by Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck at Cardozo School of Law. TIP exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. [innocenceproject.org](http://innocenceproject.org)

## 2. THE SECOND STATION: *Jesus Takes Up His Cross*

**John 19:14-17**

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jewish leaders to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.



*Take the stone you received and write any prayers and cares you wish to share. You may simply write, "Pray for me," knowing that God knows the prayers of our hearts before we speak the words.*

*Sit with the stone and feel the weight of your burdens, the weight of the crosses you carry in the silence of your heart.*

**One:** Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all who carry heavy burdens; for those weighed down by fear; for those living with pain, disease, or long illness; for those caring for the sick; for those keeping watch over the dying; for those homeless who must bear their possessions on their backs. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who bore us and our sins to the grave, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus (Next Page)

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, that mor-tal  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? It is my  
 3 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, your mor-tal  
 4 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can-not pay you, I do a -

judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus,  
 sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, Your death of an - guish  
 dore you, and will ev - er pray you, Think on your pit - y

by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!  
 I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.  
 and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5.  
 Johann Crüger, 1640

### 3. THE THIRD STATION: *Jesus Falls for the First Time*

Mark 8:31, 34-35

And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."



One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all whose tasks and sorrows are beyond what they can bear; for those carrying the burden of illness; for those fallen beneath the weight of poverty or homelessness; for those stricken by shame, guilt, or fear; for those suffering from violence, oppression, or degradation. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who falls under the cross of sorrow, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Take the stone of your burdens and place it around your neck, a reminder of the weight of the Holy Cross of Jesus.*

*“Lord, hear our prayers; Lord, have mercy on us.”*

CHANT O Lord, Hear my Prayer / Señor, ten Piedad

Ostinato Refrain

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:  
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad:

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O  
si te in - vo - co, ó - ye - me. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad, Se -

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O  
ñor, ten pie - dad: Ven, yes - cu - cha mi voz. Se -

*Last time*

#### 4. THE FOURTH STATION: *Jesus Meets his Grieving Mother*

##### **Lamentation 2:13**

What can I say for you, to what compare you,  
O daughter of Jerusalem?  
What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you,  
O virgin daughter of Zion?  
For vast as the sea is your ruin;  
who can restore you?

##### **Ruth 1:20-21**

She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has afflicted me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”



*A Litany for Mrs. Till-Mobley<sup>2</sup>*

**All: Woman, behold your son.**

One: On Saturday, August 20, 1955, Mamie Till-Mobley took her son to the Central Station at Twelfth Street in Chicago. As he ran to catch the train she said, “How do I know I’ll ever see you again?”

**All: To the disciple, whom He loved, He said, “Behold your Mother.”**

One: Eight days later, her worst fears were realized. Kidnapped and Mutilated. Shot. Murdered.

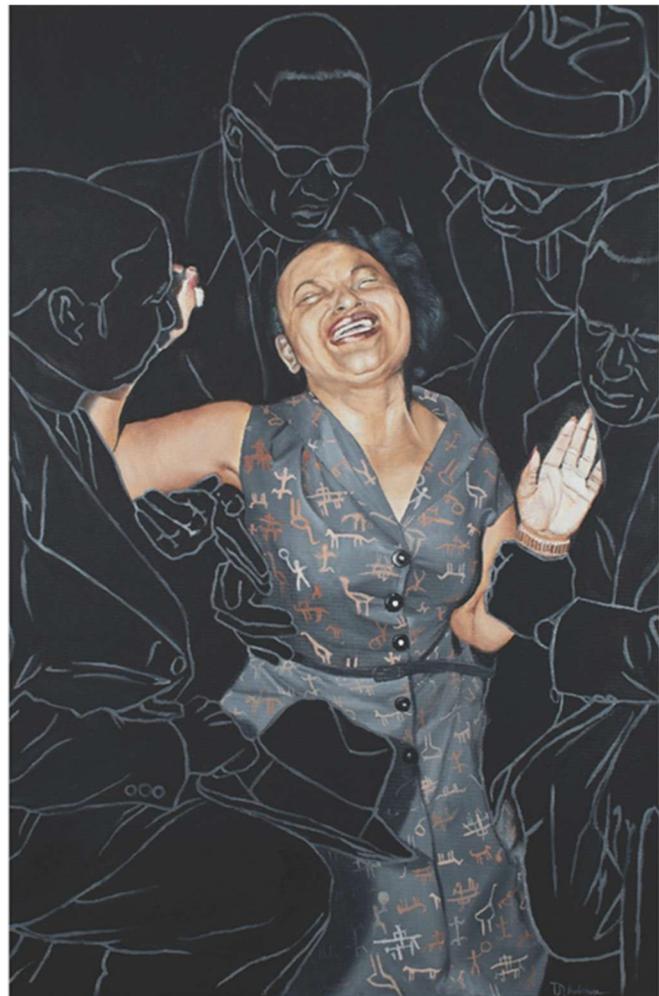
**All: “Oh, God. Oh, God. My only boy.”**

One: She stood there gazing down at the body. In shock. In terror. In disbelief.

**All: “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”**

One: Behold your mother. Look at her. Take her in. See her anguish.

**All: Are her cries for nothing? Was her loss in vain? How much more blood is necessary?**



<sup>2</sup> Drawing from Matthew 12: 46-48 & 19: 26-27, Artist’s Statement, T. D. Anderson, “Pieta”  
<https://www.tdandersonart.com/pieta-woman-behold-your-son-behold-your-mother/>

**One:** Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all who witness the suffering of those they love; for all those who watch beside a sickbed; for all those who keep vigil with the dying; for those who fear for a missing or wounded child; for those who grieve for a loved one in danger. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All:** We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who grew and became strong in his mother's loving care, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OFFERATORY HYMN** What Wondrous Love (Next Page)

*Our offering today will be taken for the benefit of two organizations in Hartford that work to break the cycle of violence: Roca, Inc, and Mothers United Against Violence (MUAV).*

*Roca's mission is to relentlessly disrupt violence by engaging young people, police, and systems to heal trauma, find hope, and drive change. <https://rocainc.org/>*

*Mothers United Against Violence (MUAV) is a faith-based organization that has been dedicated on helping out the community get through the biggest ongoing pandemic, which is gun violence. <https://muavct.org/>*

Unison

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
 3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse  
 down Be - neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown  
 Lamb Who is the great "I AM"; While mil-lions join the theme,  
 free I'll sing and joy-ful be; And through e - ter - ni - ty,

for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.  
 for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.  
 I will sing, I will sing; While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

## 5. THE FIFTH STATION: *The Cross is Laid on Simon the Cyrene*

### **Luke 23:26**

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

### **Isaiah 53:4-5**

Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
he was bruised for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,  
and with his stripes we are healed.

*Take the stones from around your necks and give it to someone near you; exchange your stone of cares for theirs and their stone of cares for yours.*

*Your cares are my cares.*

*My cares are your cares.*

*Our cares are God's cares.*



One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for those who carry our burdens; for those who stand beside us in times of sickness and danger; for those who shield us from harm; for those whose love supports and carries us across dark places; for those whose hands prepare for us food and warmth and shelter; for ourselves, that we may have the grace to allow others to assist us.

We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who stands in our place and shoulders our burdens, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# CHANT Stay with Me, Remain Here with Me

## Ostinato Refrain / Estribillo

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and  
*Ve - la - ré con - ti - go, Se - ñor, mien - tras yo*  
*German: Blei - bet hier und wa - chet mit mir, wa - chet und*

pray, watch and pray.  
*vi - va, mien - tras yo vi - va.*  
*be - tet, wa - chet und be - tet.*

Text: Matthew 26:36-42; Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## 6. THE SIXTH STATION: *A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus*

### **Lamentations 3:48-51**

My eyes will flow without ceasing,  
without respite,  
until the Lord from heaven  
looks down and sees;  
my eyes cause me grief  
at the fate of all the maidens of my city.

### **Isaiah 25:6-9**

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast ... And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”



*Who in your life is grieving? For whom do they grieve? Write their name on the sticky note you were handed. Are you grieving? Why? For whom? Write their name, too. If you feel so moved, as we sing our next song, come forward and place the notes and names on the cross.*

*Your griefs are my griefs.*

*My griefs are your griefs.*

*Our griefs are God's griefs.*

**One:** Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all who comfort the suffering; for those who minister to the sick and dying; for those who accept the help we offer; for those who support the unlovely and the unloved; for those who go into dark places to bring them light; for those who know in us the goodness and beauty we do not see. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who is comfort in sorrow and life out of every grave, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Just as I am, Without One Plea, v. 1 & 2

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea,  
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not  
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout  
 4. Just as I am— poor, wretch - ed, blind;  
 5. Just as I am— Thou wilt re - ceive,

But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
 To rid my soul of one deep blot,  
 With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,  
 Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,  
 Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve,

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
 Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

## 7. THE SEVENTH STATION: *Jesus Falls a Second Time*

### **Psalm 31:11-13**

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror all around! —  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.



One: “God doesn’t give you anything more than you can handle,” we say.

**All: We are afflicted, but not crushed.**

**Teach us to show compassion and kindness to everyone, O God.**

One: “God is just testing you,” we say.

**All: We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.**

**Teach us to put our trust in you, O God.**

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all those stricken and afflicted; for those who have fallen over and over again; for those felled by pain and illness; for those struggling with addiction; for those immobilized by fear; for those who struggle to stand upright beneath their burdens. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

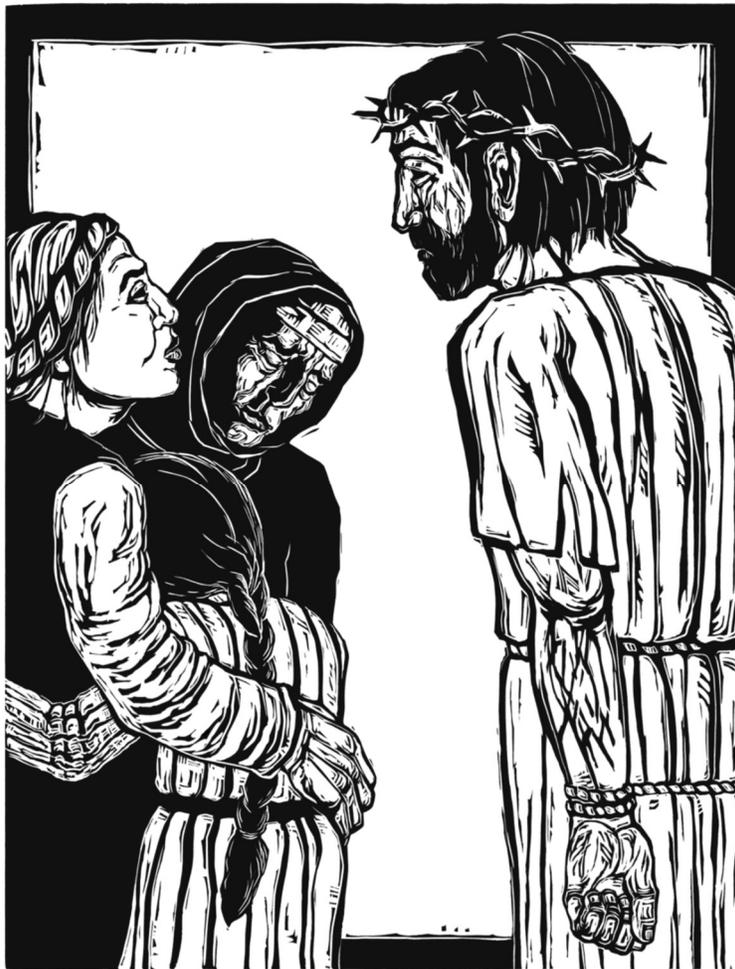
**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who knew weakness and affliction and yet gave to us life, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Just as I am, Without One Plea, v. 3 & 4

## 8. THE EIGHTH STATION: *Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem*

### **Luke 23:27-31**

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?”



One: God of Justice,  
We are guilty of building tables.

**All: We have built tables that oppression dines on,  
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

One: God of Justice,  
We are guilty of forgetting where we are,

**All: Of turning faith into a negotiation tool  
And the church into a place for insiders.**

One: God of Justice,  
We are guilty of ignoring the point;

**All: For you taught that the temple was for worship  
And your message was for all.**

One: God of our hearts,

**All: Be in our decision making.**

One: Draw near to our choices.

**All: Forgive our mistakes.**

One: And as you do,

**All: Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.**

One: With hope we pray for a better day.

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all who gave darkness in their lives; for those who fear for themselves and their future; for those grief-stricken for their children and grandchildren; for those who live in times of war and strife; for those who live in places of famine or disaster. We pray also for those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the one who tasted sorrow for our sake,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**9. THE NINTH STATION: *Jesus Falls for a Third Time*, Isaiah 29:4; 53:7**

**Isaiah 29:4; 53:7**

Then deep from the earth you shall speak;  
from low in the dust your words shall come;  
your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,  
and your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.



One: "Pull yourself up by the bootstraps," we say.

**All: He has favored us according to His Mercy.**

**Teach us to show that same mercy to all your beloved children, O God.**

One: "Do you even want to get help," we say.

**All: We lift our eyes toward the mountains, when shall help come to us?**

**Teach us to be the help and healing that your people need, O God.**

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all those who are brought low; for those imprisoned by despair; for those with no hope for recovery or healing; for those ground down by poverty, fear, or illness; for those who are wounded by oppression, violence, or degradation. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who went down to the dust that we might be exalted, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Just as I am, Without One Plea, v. 5

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea,  
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not  
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout  
 4. Just as I am— poor, wretch - ed, blind;  
 5. Just as I am— Thou wilt re - ceive,

But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
 To rid my soul of one deep blot,  
 With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,  
 Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,  
 Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve,

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
 Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

## 10. THE TENTH STATION: *Jesus is Stripped of His Garments*

### **John 19: 23-25**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

*"They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots."*

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene.

### **Job 1:20-21**

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

*Throughout the sanctuary are dice, fabric, rope, a crown woven of thorns and a sign. If any of these items are near you, we invite you to bring it forward and to dress the cross as a sign that we are all complicit and we all benefit from Christ's crucifixion and death.*



One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: For all those who are stripped and exposed; for those who have lost their homes and possessions; for those who are shorn of their name and reputation; for those whose sense of their own worth has been taken from them; for those without health, or home, or companionship. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who emptied himself and took the name of a slave, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CHANT ~ Ubi caritas ~ Where true charity ~ Donde hay amor

Refrain

U - bi cá - ri - tas et a - mor,  
*Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,*  
Don - de hay a - mor y ca - ri - dad,

u - bi cá - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
*God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.*  
don - de hay a - mor Dios a - llí es - tá.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8, 13; Taizé Community, 1978  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1979, 2009, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

## 11. THE ELEVENTH STATION: *Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*

### **Luke 23:33**

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.

### **Genesis 22:6-8**

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.



*As the sounds of hammer, wood and nails echoes throughout out the sanctuary, imagine you are holding the weapon of the state... Imagine the ways in which you are complicit in the violence of the state... Imagine the ways in which you benefit...*

One: Do not look away.  
Do not rush to redeem this violence.  
Do not carry on as if nothing is wrong.

**All: Who have we ignored?  
Who have we harmed?  
Who suffers from our injustice?**

One: Do not carry on as if nothing is wrong.  
Mourn this.  
Sit with this.  
And if you cannot –

**All: Mourn with those who are mourning.  
Grieve with those who are grieving.**

One: Do not look away.  
Do not rush to redeem this violence.  
Do not carry on as if nothing is wrong.

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all those who are pierced by fear; for those scourged by poverty or disease; for those transfixed by anger, hatred, or self-loathing; for those held hostage by oppression or prejudice.  
We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who accepted the cross and its shame for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Were You There? (Next Page)

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you

1. there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 2. there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
 3. there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
 4. there when He rose up from the grave?  
 O! \_\_\_\_\_

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

## 12.THE TWELFTH STATION: *Jesus Dies on the Cross*

### **Luke 23: 46-47**

Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.”

### *Moment of Silence*

### **Philippians 2: 5-8**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.



*The Divine Reproaches*

**All: Holy God,  
Holy and strange,  
Holy and intimate,  
have mercy on us  
O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

One: I brooded over the abyss,  
With my words I called forth creation:  
But you have brooded on destruction,  
And manufactured the means of chaos.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

One: I breathed life into your bodies,  
And carried you tenderly in my arms:  
But you have armed yourselves for war,  
Breathing out threats of violence.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

One: I made the desert blossom before you,  
I fed you with an open hand:  
But you have grasped the children's food,  
And laid waste the fertile lands.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

One: I abandoned my power like a garment,  
Choosing your unprotected flesh:  
But you have robed yourselves in privilege,  
And chosen to despise the abandoned.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and strange,  
Holy and intimate,  
Have mercy on us.**

One: I would have gathered you to me as a lover,  
And shown you the ways of peace:  
But you have desired security,  
And you would not surrender your self.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

One: I have torn the veil of my glory,  
Transfiguring the earth:  
But you have transfigured my beauty,  
And turned away your face.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

One: I have labored to deliver you,  
as a woman delights to give life:  
But you have delighted in bloodshed,  
And labored to bereave the world.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

One: I have followed you with the power of my spirit,  
To seek truth and heal the oppressed:  
But you have been following a lie,  
And returned to your own comfort.

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

**Holy God,  
Holy and strange,  
Holy and intimate,  
Have mercy on us.**

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for those who are crucified; for those held in solitary confinement; for all those tortured and slain by a perversion of justice; for those executed; for those who torture; for those who kill. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who was a prisoner and died between thieves, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CHANT Jesus, Remember Me / Jesús, Recuérdame

Ostinato Refrain / Estribillo Ostinato

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.  
Je - sús, re - cuér - da - me cuan - do en - tres en tu Rei - no,

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.  
Je - sús, re - cuér - da - me, cuan - do en - tres en tu Rei - no.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community, 1981; tr. by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1981, 2005, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

### 13. THE THIRTEENTH STATION: *Jesus's Body is Laid in His Mother's Arms*

#### **Luke 2:33-35**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

#### **Jeremiah 31:15**

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more.



One: Holy God,

Scripture tells us there was a lot of shouting on your crucifixion day.  
The crowds were yelling:

**All: “Take him away!”**

One: The assembly, when given a choice, demanded:

**All: “Crucify him! Crucify him!”**  
**“This man claims he is King of the Jews!”**

One: And Mary cried out in grief.

**All: “Oh, God. Oh, God. My only boy.”**

One: And you cried out in pain,

**All: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

One: It seems there was a lot of shouting.

**All: 2,000 years later, and we’re still shouting,**

One: And the world is still filled with violence.

The air feels so full of words,

**All: so full of hurt.**

One: I imagine you know the feeling.

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all those who mourn the death of one they loved; for those who hold in their arms the body of a loved one; for those who feel their lives broken and shattered; for those who cannot see their life beyond this death; for those who cannot grieve or weep. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One born of Mary and borne by her at the end, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN Abide With Me (Next Page)

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power.  
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;  
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.  
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?  
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.  
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.  
 William H. Monk, 1861

## 14. THE FOURTEENTH STATION: *Jesus's Body is Laid in The Tomb*

**Mark 15:42-27**

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead, and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 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 rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw where the body was laid.



POEM *Christ has No Body*

Theresa of Avila

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

*Beloved, bring the stones you've carried through this service and the cares you carry on your heart and lay them at the foot of the cross.*

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for those with lives cut short; for those who die unmourned, outliving everyone they knew or loved; for those who die in peace and hope; for those who die in fear or pain or suffering; for those who stand watch at the grace; for those who fear the finality of this loss. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Pause*

**All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One who went down to the dust that we might rise, our living Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

\*BLESSING & SENDING

DEPART IN SILENCE

## ***Peaceful Protest***

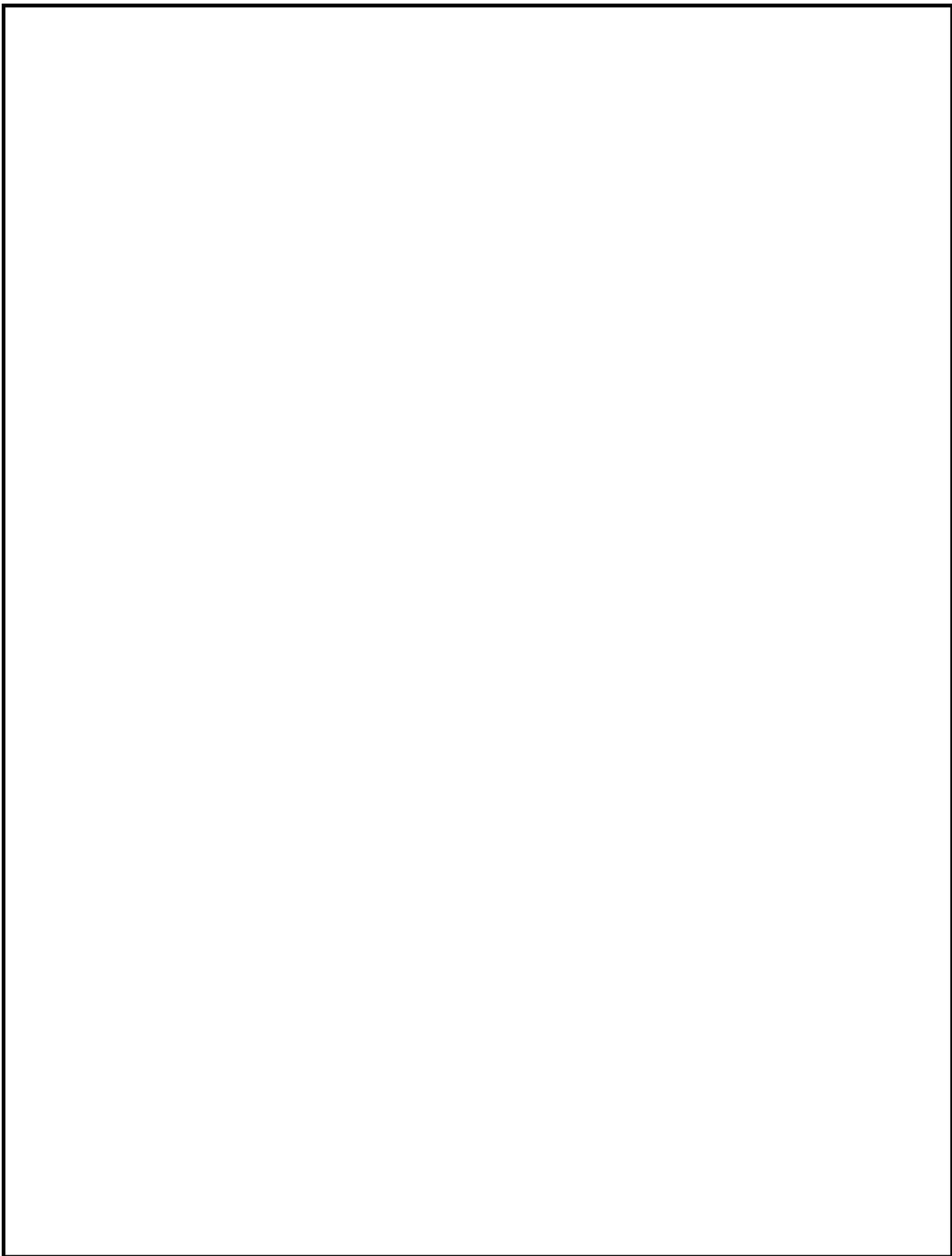
by the Rev. Sara Are, A Sanctified Art, LLC

I wonder if Jesus could feel his heartbeat  
In his throat, the way I do when I'm afraid.  
I wonder if he had to take deep breaths,  
In through his nose, out through his mouth,  
Tricking his body into a state of calm.  
I wonder if he was nauseous, like I am  
When I'm headed into a hard conversation.  
I wonder if he had to summon his courage,  
Tucking fear away so that he could hold onto  
What mattered most with both hands.

I wonder, because time has taught us  
That it is not uncommon  
For a peaceful protest  
To start or end  
With an unjust death.

So I wonder,  
Did he know?  
Was he afraid?  
Did anyone see it?

I want to hold what matters most with both hands.



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Rev. Arthur Gaither  
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