



**Come, Walk with Jesus
to the Cross...**

*Westminster Presbyterian Church
Lenten Meditation*

Introductory Prayer

Most merciful Lord, hear my prayer.

As You walked the way of this cross, today I walk it with You.

You walked it for the world; for all who have lost hope.

You walked this way for the sake of all humanity; and, You walked it for me.

Though I am unworthy to obtain mercy, You have granted it to me in this cross.

I am sorry for my offenses; and resolve to amend my life, that my daily journey with You will promote Your grace in the world.

Today, I walk with You – my Lord, my Hope, my Way and my Life.

I will journey with You and know Your sufferings in my behalf.

Here, again, I will find peace and consolation.

So I walk with You today, my Lord and my God, as You walked for me.

As I begin this journey, open my heart and mind to You.

I lay aside for these moments the trivialities of life and bring myself into Your presence, that I may know Your love anew. Speak to me as only You can.

In the name of Christ, AMEN.

Please proceed to the first Station.



Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die

The Scene

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you? But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed... So when Pilate saw he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”... and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27: 11-14, 24, 26b)

Our Response

I find it easy to condemn the moral cowardice of Pilate. Have I ever given in to pressure from others to take the easy path rather than the right path? Have I ever chosen the easy path over the right path?

Shared Prayer

Lord, help me to recognize my sins and take responsibility for them.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus Accepts His Cross

The Scene

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace ... and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him and twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:16-20)

Our Response

I would like to think that I am ready to follow you who offer a Kingdom of peace and love for one another. But am I? Am I willing to yield my ideas of what the Kingdom should look like for the role of a servant? Am I really so willing to give up my human preoccupation with power and control and accept a different kind of crown than I was expecting?

Shared Prayer

Lord, help me to exchange my will in this life for yours. I also pray that my actions may never mock your name.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

The Scene

As they were going out they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull.) (Matthew 27:32)

Our Response

Shall Simon bear the cross alone, and all the rest go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

Shared Prayer

Lord, constantly remind me that I cannot love you without loving others as well. Help me always remember that to be a follower of yours means that I share in the burdens of others.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus Speaks to the Women

The Scene

A great number of 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)

Our Response

Jesus foresaw the terrors of the destruction of Jerusalem and told the women to prepare for overwhelming sorrows. If such injustice can be perpetuated against an innocent man in a time of peace, what will befall guilty people in a time of war?

Shared Prayer

Search me O God and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; See if there be harmful ways in me; Then cleanse me, change me, lead me in your ways. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.

Interlude By the Chancel **Cross and Communion Table**

Look up to the cross, look at the cup and the bread, these symbols you see each week in worship, and think anew on what they mean:

This is His body which was broken for you; this is His blood, shed in forgiveness of sins. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Think of His walk to the cross each time you take Communion and be grateful for His sacrifice.

Pause for a moment of prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

The Scene

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. 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. (John 19: 23-25a)

Our Response

The seamless robe symbolizes the unifying power of the death of Christ. As Christians, we are all one flock that cannot be separated from each other or God.

Shared Prayer

Lord, we praise you that we of the Church are all one in you. Help us to make our unity evident in the world, that the world might know that you are the one true God.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

The Scene

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the Place called the Skull, there they crucified him along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”...One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since we are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “I will tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:32-34a, 39-43)

Our Response

What fear of God’s judgment; what indignation against injustice; what testimony to the divinity of Christ! Jesus reigned on the cross at Calvary as he reigns in heaven today.

Shared Prayer

*Lord, I’m here. Forgive me for all of my sins past, present and future.
Transform me into that person of God who discerns the glory that is you.*

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus Cares For His Mother

The Scene

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 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 19:25b-27)

Our Response

He has handed over the poor, the homeless, those without families, the sick and other marginalized people to us, his Church. Let us not forget them.

Shared Prayer

Lord, the worst thing I can do is to wallow in your grace, and concern myself only with my own spiritual well being. May your Holy Spirit prompt me and give me a compassionate heart that responds to your call for action.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the next Station.



Jesus Dies on the Cross

The Scene

It was now about the sixth hour and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father into Your hands, I commend my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what had happened, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. (Luke 23: 44-49)

Our Response

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17) God loves us this much.

Shared Prayer

Thank you Lord for saving my soul. Thank you Lord for making me whole. Thank you Lord for giving to me, your great salvation so rich and free.

Pause for a moment of individual prayer before
proceeding to the baptismal font.
The baptismal font reminds us of the commitment made, for many
of us by our parents as infants, to live our lives with Jesus.

Closing Prayer

O Lord, You have loved me far beyond anything I can imagine. You have loved the whole world, and endured the cross on our behalf. May the depth of Your love continue to astound me. May the light of Your life continue to shine in my life and the world through me. May my devotion to You and Your Way be steadfastly faithful, as You have remained steadfastly faithful to me. This prayer I make in the power of Your name, praying just as You taught your disciples, saying.....

.....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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.

As you leave, dip your hand into the water as a symbol of your recommitment to a life with Christ, with deep appreciation and gratitude for His sacrifice of Himself for us.