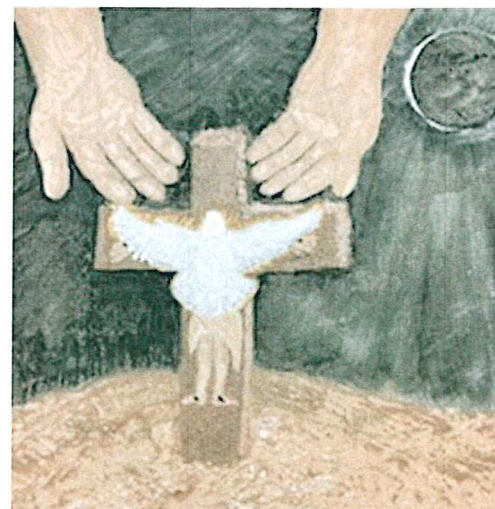


These are the words that ended our stories at Soul Food this season. We offer them to you.

*The way
held enemies and friends
sadness and comfort
It was a way of dying and a way of new life.
The way to the cross.
Jesus walked this path.
Now when we walk hard paths,
we don't walk alone.*

Stations of the Cross



**created by and for the community of
Waterloo North Mennonite Church**

Holy Week 2022

At the tomb

As you hold the stone you have picked up, think about something you want to put in the tomb with Jesus. Something that you want God to transform.

Place the stone in front of the tomb.

What could happen in the coming days? What might you expect when the stone is rolled away?

Station 14: Burial

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Matthew 27:57-60

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

For children:

- Have you ever been to a cemetery? How did it make you feel to be around the graves?
- Have you ever seen a butterfly come out of its cocoon? Why do you think the butterfly is one of the symbols people use at Easter?

Going deeper:

- What do the funeral rituals of our church teach you about the dignity of the human body?

-art by Kendra WE

Stations of the Cross*

There is an old legend that says, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his mother Mary would often walk the way her son had walked on his journey to the cross, pausing here and there to recall something that had happened at that spot. From these walks grew the early Christian practice of walking the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, in Jerusalem, a tradition that continues to this day.

Soon many people began erecting “stations” of the cross on the walls and grounds of their own churches so worshippers could make the journey whenever they wished. The number of stations ranged from as few as seven to as many as thirty. Over time however, the number became fixed at fourteen. On Good Friday 1991, Pope John Paul II introduced the fourteen scriptural Stations of the Cross that many Christians now use.

The story of Jesus’ final hours is a story we are all familiar with and yet, each gospel writer tells it from a different perspective. And it reaches each of our hearts in unique ways.

“Our” Stations of the Cross are depicted through tiles painted by members of the Waterloo North community. People of all ages have made the story of Jesus’ final hours come to life.

In the Memorial Garden you will find a series of tree stumps each with a tile, or “station” on top. This booklet has the theme, scripture, and reflection questions for each station. You will also see the name of the artist under that station title.

Between the stumps are rocks with pictures that relate to Jesus’ story. As you walk, you are invited to pick one up. At the last station there is a “tomb.” Think about something you would like to bury with Jesus, something that you want to be transformed. Lay your rock in front of the tomb. Return on Easter morning and see the tomb open with promise.

May the Spirit be with you as you journey through these stations.

*Many of the words around these stations are adapted from the Stations of the Cross Devotional Guide. © 2019 Illustrated Children's Ministry, LLC. All Rights Reserved. May be reproduced for congregational and personal use only, provided each copy carries this notice. illustratedchildrensministry.com

Station 13: Darkness

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

For children:

- The temple was a place to feel God’s presence. Do you have a particular place where you feel that you are in God’s presence?

Going deeper:

- Has there been a time when your understanding or experience of God has dramatically shifted?

-art by Christine W.

Station 12: Care

entitled *Encountering Divine Love**

Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciples

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**from the artist: This scripture verse instilled feelings of warmth, being cared for, unconditional love and faithfulness - a sunrise each day does the same.*

For children:

- Where or when do you feel fully loved?

Going deeper:

- Creation is an expression of Divine Love. How do you experience this? Are you able to reciprocate that Love in how you care for the Created World?

-art by Shirley G.

Station 1: Sorrow

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-41

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^[a] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

For children:

- When have you been very sad about something?
- Who can you ask for comfort when you feel sad?

Going deeper:

- When have you faced a crisis and needed to turn to others for support or prayer? How does it feel to rely on your friends?

-art by Kendra WE

Station 2: Betrayal

Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

Mark 14:43-46

⁴³ Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

For children:

- Have you ever told a lie about or to someone you cared for? How do you think it made them feel?

Going deeper:

- Have you used your own position of trust to betray someone close to you?
- Have you ever been let down by a close friend or family member? How did you choose to deal with your feelings?

-art by Nat W.

Station 11: Promise

Jesus Promises His Kingdom to a Thief

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

For children:

- What do you think Paradise looks like?
- Have you ever wondered what happens to people when they die?

Going deeper:

- Jesus promised the criminal that today he would be with him in paradise. What do you think about the idea that paradise begins here and now?

-art by Julia M.

Station 10: Crucifixion

Jesus is Crucified

Luke 23:33-34

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. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

For children:

- Sometimes we see pictures of Jesus on a cross. Sometimes we see only an empty cross. What do you think about when you see a cross?

Going deeper:

- The cross symbolizes different things for people. Injustice. Oppression. Freedom. Love. Salvation. What does it symbolize for you?

-art by Gordon A.

Station 3: Condemnation

Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Luke 22:66-71

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. ⁶⁷ They said, "If you are the Messiah,^[a] tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; ⁶⁸ and if I question you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." ⁷⁰ All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." ⁷¹ Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

For children:

- What would you do if you heard someone saying something untrue or unkind about your friend?

Going deeper:

- Can you think of times we have condemned people based on false externals?
- Have you ever hid behind the veneer of your own religious beliefs in an attempt to justify your prejudice?

-art by Gordon A.

Station 4: Denial

Jesus is Denied by Peter

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."^[a] ⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

For children:

- Have you ever been embarrassed about being a follower of Jesus?

Going deeper:

- When have you denied your faith or convictions in order to fit in? Was it worth it?

-art by Laura B.

Station 9: Blessing

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31

²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ 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.' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

For children:

- What do you think it means when someone says, "God bless you?"
- Can you think of a time when someone gave you a blessing? How does that make you feel?

Going Deeper:

- Can the pain you have experienced in your own life be a source of blessing for others?

-art by Marie A.

Station 8: Helping

Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Mark 15:21

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry Jesus' cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

For children:

- Alexander and Rufus watched their father help Jesus. How have the adults in your life given you examples of how you should care for others?
- What is one way that you could help someone today?

Going deeper:

- How have you set an example of kindness for the children in your life?
- Would it change the way you helped people if every time you extended a helping hand to someone you imagined that they were Jesus?

-art by Jasper CM

Station 5: Judgement

Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Mark 15:1-5, 15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

For children:

- Have you ever judged, or thought less of someone, without truly knowing them?

Going deeper:

- How might you focus more on loving others rather than judging them?
- When have you done something simply to "please the crowd"?

-art by Anya F.

Station 6: Crowning

Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

John 19:1-3

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

For children:

- Jesus was a Jew and Romans did not like Jewish people. How do you think we treat people of different religions?
- What could you do to learn something about the Jewish religion?

Going deeper:

- Jesus was a Jew, rather than a Christian. Does this shape your own relationships with people of other faiths?

-art by John T.

Station 7: Bearing

Jesus Bears the Cross

John 19:6, 15-17

⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew^[a] is called Golgotha.

For children:

- When have you been asked to do something for someone else that you thought was really difficult? What gave you the strength to do it?

Going deeper:

- What do you think about Jesus' decision to carry the cross as having "cosmic consequences?"
- How does Jesus' decision to carry the cross shape how you engage in acts of selfless love for others?

-art by Kendra WE.