

Stations of the Cross – C

Preparations

Doing the Stations of the Cross as a group

Each church building is different. In preparing to lead the Stations of the Cross, you will have some decisions to make:

- Will all or only a core group move from station to station?
- If the majority of people are seated in the pews, how will you involve them? E.g would it be possible to project images for each station onto a screen so that all can see them?
- The participants needs a copy of the refrain – this can be done with labels on a postcard.

Leader We gather as sisters and brothers in Christ as we begin our prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Leader We gather in these Lenten days
to walk the journey of Jesus to the cross.

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a journey, a journey that reveals Jesus' incredible love for people, and his trust in God that nothing can ever separate us, you and me, from the God of love. The Stations of the Cross ends in death...but that is not the end of the story.....we walk with Jesus in his suffering, passion and death 2000 years ago, because it gives meaning to our suffering today, and offers hope in our times of despair and despondency.

As we come to pray the Stations, let us be aware of the personal challenges and difficulties that are weighing upon each of us, and also all the struggles and pain that the past year has been for us as families, as communities, as a people, as a worldwide community. We pray this prayer for all people and with all people....

Lord, we hear your call to us,
not to be bystanders but responding with love;
We ask you, Lord, for the courage
to notice your presence of hope and love,
even at times of despair and darkness.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Station 1

Reader 1 Jesus is condemned to death.

Reader 2 Jesus Christ, brother of all, we recognise you today in each person who is condemned – condemned by us when we treat others judgementally, when we are racist or prejudiced, ... condemned by unjust governments or political systems like the Palestinian or the Rohingya peoples.

Reader 1 Jesus, by accepting the cross, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 2

Reader 1 Jesus receives his cross.

Reader 2 Jesus Christ, compassionate one, you carry our crosses with us – with us in the fear and pain, knowing the situations in our lives that weigh heavily upon us, that we fear will crush us.

Reader 1 Jesus, by accepting the cross, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 3

Reader 1 Jesus falls the first time.

Reader 2 Jesus, we look around us ...we find you today in each person who has fallen, is feeling unable to stand, failing...in all who are knocked down by the weight of their lives....

Open our hearts to see our sisters and brothers falling....and to respond with love

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 4

Reader 1 Jesus meets Mary, his mother.

Reader 2 Imagine the mixture of joy and sorrow in Jesus as he meets his mother, this woman who has always been there for him, who has loved him all of his life...and

now his joy in seeing her, is mixed with the sorrow that he is causing her, the sorrow he sees etched on her face....

Jesus, we recognise the presence of the God of love in all who try to love others unconditionally.

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Musical Refrain

Station 5

Reader 1 Simon helps Jesus carry his cross

Reader 2 Sometimes, oftentimes we need another's help. Jesus, help us to recognise you in all those who go the extra mile, all those who help us carry life's burdens, all who are reaching out a hand of support and care at this time.

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 6

Reader 1 Veronica wipes Jesus' face

Reader 2 Touch, tenderness, gentleness.....Jesus, you received Veronica's gift of care....let us notice your presence in each act of tenderness, each act of love....let us see your presence today in those who reach out to others, responding to their needs.

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 7

Reader 1 Jesus falls a second time

Reader 2 Your fall, Jesus, invites me to realise that falling, failing is not the end....I am heartened by your getting up, your struggling on, your resilience....let us cherish you in all those who keep going, who do not give up or give in...

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 8

Reader 1 Jesus is met by the women of Jerusalem

Reader 2 Jesus, you are able for tears, tears for all that is not, crying for all that is lost....help us to weep and cry out for all who are living in desperate situations, let us see how God's heart breaks for the pain and suffering of our world.

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 9

Reader 1 Jesus falls a third time

Reader 2 When we are on the ground, knocked down by life, gutted by loss and heartache, let us recognise you Jesus in this place...and you are here with us, with all who are knocked down by life, again and again.

Reader 1 Jesus, by carrying the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Musical Refrain

Station 10

Reader 1 Jesus is stripped of his clothing

Reader 2 We turn away from your stripping, Jesus Christ....we feel your humiliation. You are stripped again and again today each time a person is used, violated, stripped of their dignity, each time the earth is devastated, pillaged, deforested

Reader 1 Jesus, by accepting the cross, you show us the way to life.
All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 11

Reader 1 Jesus is nailed to the cross

Reader 2 What love....what enormous love....wherever people are persecuted in the cause of justice, unjustly accused, tortured, victimised, you are there, with them...

Reader 1 Jesus, by accepting the cross, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 12

Reader 1 Jesus dies on the cross

Reader 2 Death is so final, so stark....inexorable loss... the world ended....where can we find hope in such finality, light in such darkness?

Reader 1 Jesus, by dying, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Musical Refrain

Station 13

Reader 1 Jesus is taken down from the cross

Reader 2 In death, at the whim of others....Jesus, you know what it is not to be in control, what it is to be carried by others...you are present today with those whose fate is held in others' hands

Reader 1 Jesus, by dying, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Station 14

Reader 1 Jesus is placed in the tomb

Reader 2 The shape of the tomb can be different....it is a place of darkness where there is no way out....Jesus, you trusted in God not to desert you, but to be with you, even when it seemed like there could be no hope.

Reader 1 Jesus, by dying, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,*

for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

Station 15

Reader 1 On Easter Sunday, the tomb is empty and Jesus' body is not there

Reader 2 Jesus Christ, you invite us to lives of trust....to see the light that pierces darkness, to notice the life that breaks open out of death. You came to show us a way of hope, you invite us on a path of love, trusting that God, life, love pulsates through our world more than we can hope or imagine.

Reader 1 Jesus, by trusting in God, you show us the way to life.

All *Save us, saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.*

Musical Refrain

Leader: God, our loving Creator and Father,
open our hearts and our lives
that we might become beacons of hope and solidarity
in our world today.

May we grow in awareness of the needs and struggles
of our sisters and brothers
and strive to fight injustice and suffering.
We ask this prayer,
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our brother.

All: **Amen.**

[All leave in silence]