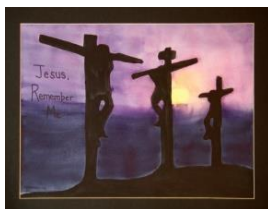


JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

APRIL 2, 2021

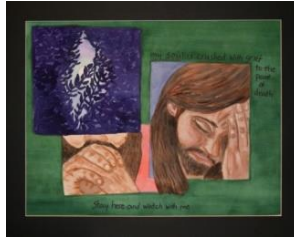


Welcome to this virtual journey to the cross. We invite you to spend some time meditating and praying as you read the Scripture passages and look at the illustrations of scenes from the last days of Christ's earthly life. Take your time. Linger and don't rush. Listen to the sounds. Enjoy the silence. This is an opportunity to allow God to show you something about Himself, about His love for the world, and His love for you. Talk to Him about what you are experiencing as each scene is displayed on the screen. The entire journey takes about 15 minutes and if you join in the middle, wait for the pictures to rotate through to view all of the slides.

As you complete your time, you are invited to partake in communion that will be available at the front of the church.

About the Illustrations

These simple watercolors were painted by Linda E. S. Roberts as she tried to capture moments during Christ's last week on earth. Linda is a psychotherapist, spiritual director, executive, and life coach and speaker. She uses simple drawings to offer contemplative moments of prayer and connection with the heart and God. (Used with permission, 2007.)



First Station: *Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane*

Matthew 26:36-41

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.” He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then He said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with Me.” 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.” 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? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- *We believe that Jesus was both fully God and fully human. How does Jesus’ prayer reveal both aspects of His nature?*
- *Jesus’ prayer is for the will of the Father to be done. How might you pray for the Father’s will to be revealed in your life?*



Second Station: *Jesus, Betrayed by Judas*

Luke 22:47-48

While He was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss Him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

- *What might have been Judas' motives for betraying Jesus? Was it for the money or was there something more that Judas hoped to accomplish?*
- *How might you have "betrayed" Jesus in your life by thinking that your motives were "right" but the wrong actions took place? Pray for forgiveness.*



Third Station: *Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin*

Luke 22:66-71

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. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from His own lips!"

- *Jesus' accusation in the assembly of the elders was that He was the Messiah and this was perceived by the council as blasphemy. Why didn't Jesus clearly state that He was the Messiah?*
- *Jesus came as the "suffering Servant." His rule as a king was to serve, and through serving, usher in the Kingdom of God. How might you serve in your daily life to usher in the Kingdom of God?*

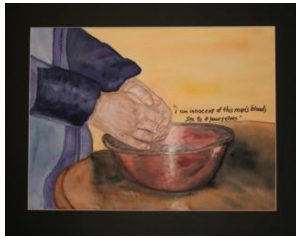


Fourth Station: *Jesus is Denied by Peter*

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” 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.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

- *Peter denied Christ three times before he realized his wrong. Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus?*
- *Have there been times in your life when you have been fearful to share that you are a follower of Christ? What were you afraid of? What might have happened if you had claimed you were a disciple of Jesus?*
- *Ask God to help you to be bold in your proclamation that you are a disciple of Christ.*



Fifth Station: *Jesus is Judged by Pilate*

Matthew 27:21-24

The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let Him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that 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."

- *Can you think of times in your life when you needed to make a difficult decision but, like Pilate, didn't want to be held responsible for that decision? What did you do?*
- *Are there certain sins you have not confessed to God because you're still trying to get out of responsibility for them? What might help you tell the truth to yourself and to God about your sin?*



Sixth Station: *Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns*

Matthew 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on His head. They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.

- *What does the physical suffering of Jesus evoke in you? What does it make you think? Feel?*
- *How does the physical suffering of our Lord help us to connect with His spiritual suffering? Jesus' abuse, physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and ultimately His death was taken on for our sake. Give thanks to our Lord for His great sacrifice.*



Seventh Station: Jesus Bears His Cross

John 19:13-17

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" 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." Then he handed Him over to them 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.

- *As you reflect on the cross of Christ, what thoughts come to mind? What feelings arise in you?*
- *The cross demonstrates the inestimable love, mercy, and grace of God. Have you ever thought about what your life would be like if Jesus had not died for you? How would your life be different?*



Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

Mark 15:21

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

- *How do you envision Jerusalem on the day in which Jesus carried His cross down the “Via Dolorosa” to Golgotha?*
- *Simon of Cyrene was probably a common everyday pilgrim in Jerusalem going about his daily routines when he was abruptly dragged into carrying the cross with Jesus. What can help you remember that Jesus came into a real world, not some tidy, religious world in which everything was safe and easy?*

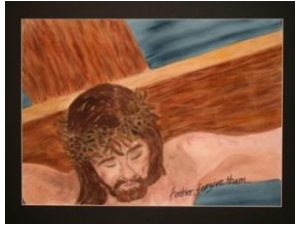


Ninth Station: *Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem*

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?”

- *Imagine a crowd of people following Jesus to the cross. Some may have mocked Him but most were horrified by what was taking place. Many wept as Jesus was taken away. We also weep as we acknowledge the sacrifice that Jesus made because of our sin.*
- *How are Jesus’ words to the women a call for us to pray for one another? Take Jesus’ words and pray for our cries for forgiveness.*

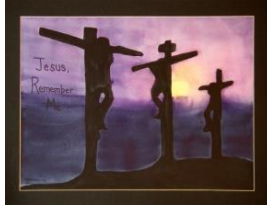


Tenth Station: *Jesus is Crucified*

Luke 23:33-34

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. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

- *The Roman soldiers were doing their “job” when they crucified Jesus and the two beside Him. They were following the order from Pontius Pilate and their commanding officers/centurions. The cruelty of crucifying another human must have been difficult but in order to do their job, the soldiers “mocked” Jesus. Their mockery dehumanized Jesus and the criminals in order for them to do their job.*
- *Have you witnessed, or have you ever experienced a time when a person was “dehumanized” in order for a difficult task to be accomplished? What took place, and where did it take place? Was a crude joke told, was a derogatory name given to help to give a feeling of superiority and to get the task accomplished? How might we dehumanize others in other situations?*
- *Pray for situations where we dehumanize others. May we remember that all human beings are created in God’s image.*



Eleventh Station: *Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief*

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who was 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."

- *Jesus gave mercy to a criminal on the cross. When have you cried out to God for His mercy?*
- *Thank God for hearing your cry and responding with healing grace.*



Twelfth Station: *Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple*

John 19:25-27

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.

- *What were Jesus' mother's thoughts and feelings as her son hung on the cross?*
- *Jesus entrusted His mother to John. How might John have felt?*
- *Have you ever been entrusted with a task or with someone to care and look out for? What was the task or the person that you were to care for? Thank God for that task that was entrusted to you.*
- *Pray for a situation that God has entrusted to you now.*



Thirteenth Station: *Jesus Dies on the Cross*

Luke 23:44-47

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying 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."

- *How do you envision the land being dark for the three hours, from noon until three? What was the weather like? What did the darkness mean for the created world? What does the darkness symbolize?*
- *How were the centurion's words speaking the truth? What might have led this soldier to speak of Jesus' innocence?*



Fourteenth Station: *The Tomb*

Matthew 27:59-66

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth 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. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while He was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise His disciples may go and steal Him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Mark 16:1-4

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

(Please turn to the next page.)

- *When you think of Jesus' burial, what comes to mind for you?*
- *Why does it matter that Jesus really died and was really buried?*
- *The spices, the wrapped cloth, the stone at the entrance, the guards at the entrance to the tomb, the women coming to anoint His body, all speak of Jesus' death. What is the significance of the burial rites of Jesus?*
- *In what ways does it matter to you that Jesus really died and really was buried?*

As you complete your time, you are invited to partake in communion that will be available at the front of the church.

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9908 Channel Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

619-443-1021

www.lakesidepc.org office@lakesidepc.org

