

# Stations of the Cross

Lent & Holy Week 2021

*Sharing Space with Christ*

Belmont United Methodist Church

*Sharing Space  
with Christ*

# Praying the Stations of the Cross



# Stations of the Cross

The stations in this presentation are illustrated with photography provided by members of Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville, as well as photos in the public domain.

**The stations prescribed for this Way of the Cross are found in the United Methodist Book of Worship.**

**The scriptures are from the Common English Bible.**

**Photographers are credited on the bottom right of the page.**

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# What are the Stations of the Cross?

The Stations of the Cross depict through artistic expression the path that Christ walked on the day of his crucifixion.

This walk, a journey through passion and prayer,  
also known as the Way of the Cross,  
functions as devotion during the Lenten season for centuries.

# Walking the Stations of the Cross

## *Sharing Space with Christ*

On Ash Wednesday of 2020, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the first non-travel case of COVID was confirmed in the United States. As Lent continued, our world began to shift and soon it shuttered.

Living in spheres surrounded by chaos, we searched for our footing as we left our familiar home with no clear path to our new domicile. And so we found ourselves on the threshold, the past behind us and the future unknown, living in liminal space.

As we have experienced this collective liminal space during the past year, we have also experienced together unprecedented grief and suffering, witnessed a shifting democracy, and have been challenged to be accountable to systemic racism and respond to our neighbors now in poverty.

In the journey to the cross, Christ models for us how to embrace and breathe in the “place between.”

As unsettling as this space is, the openness of liminal space allows us to be receptive and teachable. The fluidity of the “place in between” dares us to set aside our perceptions of normal and to create a new way.

During Lent 2021, you are beckoned to walk the Stations of the Cross, allowing Christ to share the sacred liminal space with you, and grace you with endurance and hope for the journey ahead as you step your foot off of the threshold onto a new path.

And so we have found  
ourselves on the  
threshold, the past  
behind us and the  
future unknown, living  
in liminal space.



Jerry Park



# Station 1: Jesus Prays Alone.

**Luke 22:39-44**

Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives,  
as was his custom, and the disciples followed him.

When he arrived, he said to them,  
“Pray that you won’t give in to temptation.”

He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw,  
knelt down, and prayed.

He said,  
“Father, if it’s your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However,  
not my will but your will must be done.”

Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him.

He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly.

His sweat became like drops of blood falling  
on the ground.



Jesus prays  
alone

*Where is your  
Garden when  
the world  
shifts under  
your feet?*

*The Millennium Statue of Jesus Christ stands among trees shattered by Hurricane Laura at Bilbo Cemetery in Lake Charles, La. The statue was sculpted by Janie Stine LaCroix, a descendant of Jacob Ryan, Jr., the "Father of Lake Charles," who is buried in the cemetery. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*



# Station 2: Jesus is Arrested.

**Matthew 26:47-56**

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people.

His betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.”

Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him.

But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.”

Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him.

One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest’s slave, he cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him,

“Put the sword back into its place.

All those who use the sword will die by the sword.

Or do you think that I’m not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?”

Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn’t arrest me. But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

Jesus is arrested.



*(Breathe in)*

*Injustice*

*(Breathe out)*

*Goodness*

# *Forever Breathing in our Hearts*



*(Breathe in)*

*Suffering*

*(Breathe out)*

*Peace*



George Floyd Prayer Vigil  
Belmont United Methodist Church  
Jerry Park

# Station 3: Sanhedrin tries Jesus.

## **Mark 14:61-64**

But Jesus was silent and didn't answer.

Again, the high priest asked,

“Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?”

Jesus said,

“I am. And you will see the Human One sitting on the right side of the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

“Why do we need any more witnesses?

You've heard his insult against God. What do you think?”

They all condemned him.

“He deserves to die!”



# The Sanhedrin tries Jesus. Are you the Christ?



*'You will see the Human One sitting on the right side of  
the Almighty and coming on the heavenly clouds....'*

## A SONG OF ASCENTS

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be  
moved;  
he who keeps you will not  
slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your  
right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by  
day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all  
evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming  
in  
from this time forth and  
forevermore

# Station 4: Pilate tries Jesus.

John 18:33-37

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked,

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered,

“Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?”

Pilate responded,

“I’m not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me.

What have you done?”

Jesus replied, “My kingdom (kindom) doesn’t originate from this world.

If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish

leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.”

“So you are a king?” Pilate said.

Jesus answered,

“You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify

to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate  
tries  
Jesus.



*“My Kingdom is  
not from here.”*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our  
debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Albuquerque, NM  
Mary Beth Franklyn

# Station 5: Pilate Sentences Jesus.

During the festival, Pilate **released** one prisoner to them, whomever they requested.

A man named Barabbas ~~Mark 15:16~~ **Mark 15:15** was mixed up with the rebels who had committed murder during an uprising.

The crowd pushed forward and asked Pilate to release someone, as he regularly did.

Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

He knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of jealousy.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

Pilate replied, “Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?”

They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done?”

They shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them.

He had Jesus whipped, then handed him over to be crucified.



Pilate  
sentences  
Jesus.

Basilica de la  
Sagrada Familia,  
Passion Facade,  
Barcelona, Spain

Susan  
Bradford

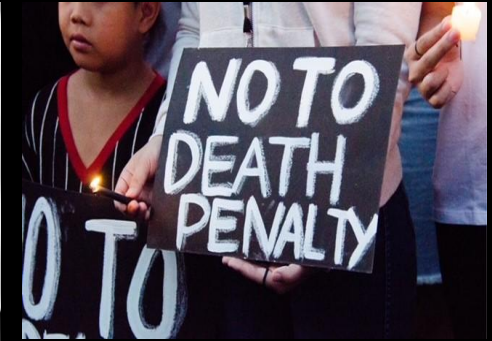


*(Breathe in)*

*Injustice*

*(Breathe out)*

*Peace*



# Station 6: Jesus wears the Crown.

**John 19:5**

When Jesus came out,  
wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe,  
Pilate said to them, “Here’s the man.”





Owl's Hill, Nature Preserve,  
Williamson County, TN

Monte Arnold

# Jesus Wears the Crown

*Lord, in your mercy*

*Hear our prayer*



# Station 7: Jesus carries his Cross.

**John 10:17-18**

“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to.  
I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again.  
I received this commandment from my Father.”

**John 19: 17**

Carrying his cross by himself,  
he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*).



# Jesus carries his Cross

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

*May we Keep the faith in times of grief and separation*



The Rev. Stephen Handy leads a prayer vigil at McKendree United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., that was held to grieve and remember people lost to acts of racism.



Members and leaders of Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., worship in a mostly empty sanctuary while the congregation worships remotely.

# Station 8: Simon carries the Cross.

## **Luke 23:26**

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from  
Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside.  
They put the cross on his back and made him carry it  
behind Jesus.



# Simon carries the Cross.

## Prayers & Gratefulness for so many Simons....



Tamera Thomas hands out paperwork to people waiting for a COVID-19 test at a drive-thru site offered by Meharry Medical College at St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tenn.



Custodian James Jimmerson disinfects pews to prevent any possible spread of the coronavirus at Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn.



Dr. Millard Collins (center, in purple t-shirt) offers a prayer and last-minute instructions before the opening of a drive-thru testing site for COVID-19 at St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Marcus Bowman (left) and other volunteers unload donated food from a truck at the Branch of Nashville emergency food assistance program in Antioch, Tenn. The program, housed at Antioch United Methodist Church, received a "Sheltering in Love," grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief to assist vulnerable communities in the United States and around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic

Photographs by Mike Dubose,  
United Methodist News

# Station 9: Jesus Speaks to the Women.

**Luke 23:27-31**

A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women,  
who were mourning and wailing for him.

Jesus turned to the women and said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t cry for me.

Rather, cry for yourselves and your children.

The time will come when they will say,

“Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant,

the wombs that never gave birth,

and the breasts that never nursed a child.”

Then *they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us,” and to the hills, “Cover us.”*

If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?



Jesus speaks to the women.



Breonna Taylor

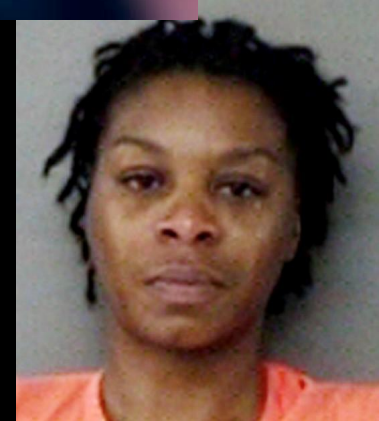


Sandra Bland

*Say their names.*

“Cry for yourselves and your children.”

*Blessed are those who grieve.*



# Station 10: 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.”

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Jesus is crucified.



*Oh, Universal Christ,  
Teach me how to forgive.*



Rio  
Grande  
Albuquerque  
NM

Mary Beth  
Franklyn

Memorial  
of the  
Shoah,  
Paris,  
France  
Susan  
Bradford

# Station 11: Criminals speak to Jesus

## **Luke 23: 39-43**

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him,

“Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him,

“Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die?

We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did.

But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”



*Today you will be with me in  
Paradise*



*May you accept the promise & peace of  
God*

White  
Sands  
NM

Mary Beth  
Franklyn

Into the  
Deep

Susan Hay

# Station 12:

## Jesus speaks to Mary and John.

### **John 19: 25b-27**

Jesus's mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved  
standing nearby, he said to his mother,  
“Woman, here is your son.”

Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”  
And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Jesus speaks to Mary and John.

*Pray for our  
caregivers.*



Volunteer Hannah LaBrecque (above) hugs a fellow volunteer as they don protective equipment before the opening of a drive-thru testing site for COVID-19 at St. Luke Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tenn.



# Station 13: Jesus dies on the Cross.

## **John 19: 28-34**

After this, knowing that everything was already completed,  
in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."  
A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in  
it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.  
When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed."  
Bowing his head, he gave up his life.  
It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the  
bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that  
Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs  
of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down.  
Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who  
were crucified with Jesus.  
When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead  
so they didn't break his legs.  
However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear,  
and immediately blood and water came out.





Jesus dies on the Cross.

Total solar  
eclipse,  
Nashville,  
Tennessee  
August  
2017

Monte  
Arnold



Memorial  
for persons  
who have  
passed  
away from  
Covid.

# Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

## **John 19:28 –30**

After this, knowing that everything was already completed,  
in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”  
A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it,  
placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.  
When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, “It is completed.”  
Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

## **Luke 23:44**

It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth  
until about three o'clock, while the sun stopped shining.  
Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle.  
Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, “Father, into your hands I entrust my life.”  
After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

Jesus is laid in the tomb.



*(Breathe in)*

*Jesus Christ, Son of God*

*(Breathe out)*

*Have Mercy on Me*



Easter at  
Cathedral  
of St. John  
the  
Baptist,  
Savannah,  
Georgia

Susan  
Bradford

Upper  
Antelope  
Canyon,  
Arizona

Jerry  
Park