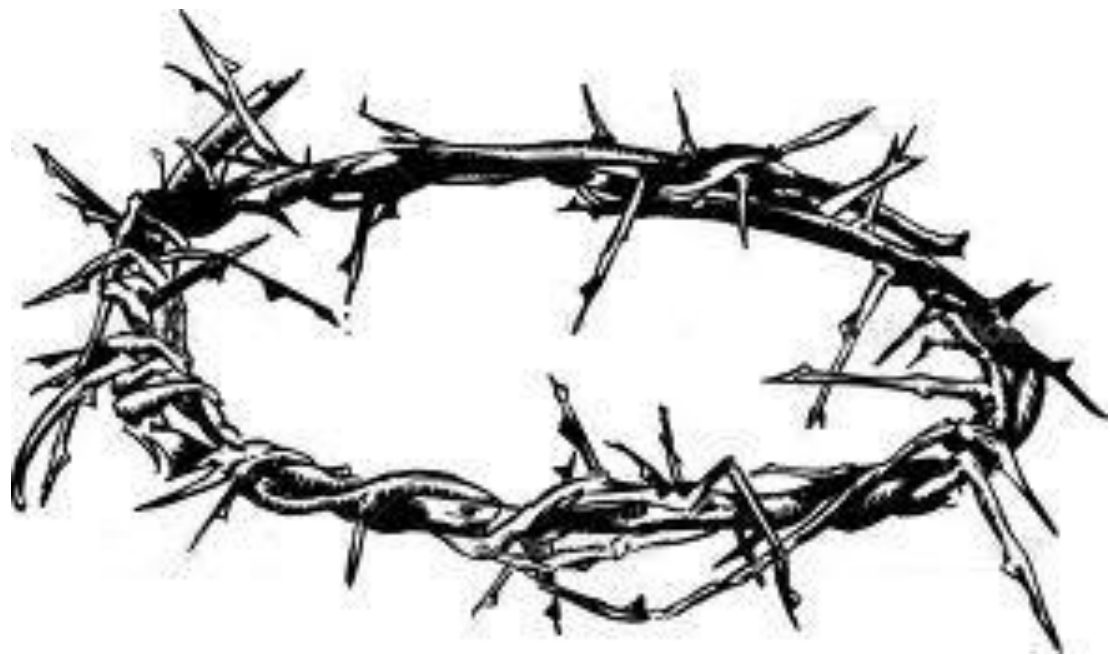


ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
LINDSAY, ONTARIO

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS





The Stations of the Cross

LEADER: In the name of the Father, the son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: *Amen*

LEADER: O God, throughout the passion, death and resurrection of your Son, you showed us the path to eternal glory by way of the cross. Now, as we follow Him by our prayers to the place of Calvary, may we also share in His victory over sin and death, and be received into His kingdom for all eternity, where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever.

ALL: *Amen*

LEADER: The path that Jesus followed during His passion, from the courtroom to the place where He died, is in Jerusalem. There, this path is known as the VIA DOLOROSA, or the Sorrowful Way. Certain spots where Jesus stopped along this route are marked and these are called stations.

We invite you to join with us today as we make the Way of the Cross to remind us of Jesus' love for all of us.



LEADER: The First Station:
Jesus is condemned to Death

ALL: *We adore you, O Christ, and
we praise you.*

LEADER: Pilate the judge said, "Look, here is your king."
But the people yelled, "Get rid of him. Kill him!"
"Should I kill your king?" Pilate asked them.
"Yes", they yelled back, "Kill him!"
So Pilate allowed Jesus to be lead away by the soldiers.

***ALL: If we had been there Jesus, we would have begged
Pilate to set you free. We would have yelled, "Let Him go
...He is a good man."***

***But we were not there. We are only here now,
remembering.***

Today, in our work and play, we try to speak up for those being
treated unfairly. We respect the rights and the dignity of all in
our communities.

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Second Station:
Jesus carries his cross.

We adore you O Christ and
we praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: The soldiers led Jesus away as Pilate had ordered. They put a crown of thorns on his head; they beat Him up, and then they made fun of Him. Then they laid a heavy cross on His shoulders and ordered Him to carry it to a place called Calvary. His whole body ached, and He was so tired He could hardly walk.

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, we would have carried the heavy cross for you. We would have told those soldiers, "Get back, leave him alone! Can't you see he is in pain?"*

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, when someone is wrongly blamed for something he or she did not do, we attempt to show the way of truth and justice.

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Third Station:
Jesus falls for the first time
under the cross.

We adore you O Christ and
we praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.***

LEADER: Jesus was so weak that he could not stand the weight of the cross. He fell to the ground. Perhaps as He lay there, weak and in pain, He remembered the words of Job: “I have rubbed my face in the dust and it is red with tears... my breath grows weak and I can feel that the grave is waiting for me.” But the soldiers showed no compassion. They pulled Jesus up and pushed Him forward.

ALL: ***If we had been there Jesus, we would have made sure you did not fall. We would have walked beside you and given you strong arms to lean on.***

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we remember your pain Jesus. We attempt to help others when they are in need of assistance, no matter who they are. We do not laugh at others because of their differences and difficulties. Instead, we try to help and be of assistance.

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Fourth Station:
Jesus meets his mother.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: Mary was following Jesus as he carried his cross. Watching him stumble along, she must have remembered what the old prophet Simeon had said to her: “Mary, your sorrow over this child will be great. It will be as if a sword is piercing your heart.” Now the soldiers were allowing Mary to talk to Jesus. She had only a moment and there was so much she wanted to say. She knew then exactly what Simeon meant.

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, we would have formed a circle around you and Mary, to let you talk as long as you wanted. We would have held out against anyone who tried to push us away.*

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we try to learn how to be assertive about our faith and we try to be positive in our attitude and behaviours towards other people and family members. We want our family and friends to respect us for our actions.

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Fifth Station:
Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.***

LEADER: Simon was an African who had come to Palestine to work in the fields. He had settled there but people still called him a stranger. Yet, it was Simon who was called upon to help with the cross. The soldiers grabbed him and pushed him toward Jesus. He must have thought, “Why me? Is it because I am different that they are making me do this?” When he saw how much Jesus needed help however, he quickly lifted up the cross.

ALL: ***If we had been there Jesus, we would have taken turns carrying the cross so that you would not have had to carry it at all. We would have let Simon go on by.***

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we often say, “We have a heavy cross to bear.” How well do we respond to challenges presented to us by our friends and families?

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Sixth Station:
Veronica wipes the face of
Jesus.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.***

LEADER: Veronica saw Jesus, and she ran forward to wipe the blood and the sweat from His face. Who was she? Maybe a friend of Mary's? Maybe one of those women who had followed Jesus as he went from town to town preaching? Whoever she was, here she was simply being a friend to Jesus. She received in return the gift of Jesus' friendship. At that moment she understood that friendship can be a great thing, something money cannot buy.

ALL: If we had been there Jesus, we would have done just what Veronica did. We would have wiped your face with soft, warm cloths and then put bandages on your open cuts.

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we try to reach out to those who are in need. We help children with challenges in school and our families with household responsibilities. We have a calling to stewardship.

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Seventh Station:
Jesus falls the second time.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the
World.*

LEADER: Jesus fell again under the weight of the cross. It must have been embarrassing to fall down in front of so many people. Maybe Jesus felt like Jeremiah the Prophet who cried out, "I am in anguish! I feel great pain. My heart is throbbing." And yet, what could Jesus do? The soldiers forced Him to get up and pushed Him away.

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, we would have demanded that the cross be removed from your shoulders. We would have told the soldiers, "Can't you see he has had enough?"*

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we partake in risks in order to make progress. Sometimes these risks cause us to fall down; however, we attempt to get right back up. By taking risks, we sometimes expose ourselves to criticism. Like Jesus, we may stumble but we continue with our journey.

Jesus, please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Eighth Station:
Jesus meets the women of
Jerusalem.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: A huge crowd was following Jesus, including some women who were crying out and weeping for Him. Jesus saw their tears and He said to them, “Do not shed tears for me. Cry instead for yourselves and your children.” The women must have wondered what Jesus meant. He was the one carrying the cross, yet He was asking them to weep for themselves. They shook their heads in wonder as He was shoved onward.

ALL: If we had been there Jesus, we would have told the women, “Don’t you understand? It is our sin, our sins and your sins, that Jesus wants us to cry over.”

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we sometimes do things which hurt others in our community, and at home. We are trying to reduce the hurtful deeds and attitudes which sometimes cause pain to those around us.

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Ninth Station:
Jesus falls for the third time.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: Once, twice, and now for the third time Jesus falls to the ground. He must have been extremely weak to lose His balance so often. It was only His faith in God that kept Him going. In the Garden of Gethsemane He had prayed, "Father, let this pass from me. But your will, not mine, be done." Now the soldiers forced Jesus up again, and pushed Him on His way.

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, you would not have fallen again. We would have held you up and supported you in every way we could. We would have picked up the cross ourselves.*

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today, we need to realize the needs of those less fortunate than us. We need to reach out to the elderly and those who are sick. How can I be of service to these people?

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Tenth Station:
Jesus is stripped of His clothing.
We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: By this time, Jesus was so weak He was unable to resist anything the soldiers did to Him. They cruelly ripped off His clothing, and they quarrelled over who would have it. "For His part, He made no resistance, neither did He turn away. The Lord God came to His help so that He was untouched by their insulting behaviour." Jesus stood there stripped and humiliated, waiting to be nailed to the cross.

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, those soldiers would not have laid a hand on you. We would never have allowed them to touch your clothing or to humiliate you in any way.*

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

How do we deal with people who make fun of us or others? It can be difficult to stand up to others when injustices are being committed. Our conscience dictates that we are thinking, feeling, rational beings with the ability to discern between right and wrong actions and thoughts.

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Eleventh Station:
Jesus is nailed to the cross.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the
world.***

LEADER: The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and two other men to crosses – one on each side of Jesus. Pilate had written a notice to be put on the cross of Jesus. It said, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”. The leaders protested that Jesus was not really their king, but Pilate would not change what he had written. So, the soldiers raised the cross upright with Pilate’s sign on it.

ALL: ***If we had been there Jesus, we would have told the leaders, “Don’t you realize who this is? He is not a criminal. He has not disobeyed your laws. He is Jesus, God’s own son.”***

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Christian stewardship means that we should not only care for the gifts we have received from God but we should also share these gifts with those in need. Conditions of poverty and injustice are not accidental – they are often the result of attitudes and behaviours of people in the developed world. Justice requires that we not only alleviate human needs through charity but also identify and eliminate the root causes of injustice. We can start by recognizing those who need help and remembering them in our prayers.

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Twelfth Station:
Jesus dies on the cross.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: As Jesus hung on the cross, He cried out, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they are doing." From a crowd of people standing nearby, someone yelled, "You saved others; now save yourself if you are God's chosen one!" The soldiers made fun of Him too. At last, Jesus cried out again, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." After He said this, He died.

(EVERYONE PAUSES AND BOWS THEIR HEADS)

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, we would have pushed the people back from the cross. We would have knelt beneath it and prayed with you.*

ALL: *But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.*

How forgiving are we of those who hurt us? How do we forgive?

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Thirteenth Station:
Jesus is taken down from the
cross.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the
world.***

LEADER: A man named Joseph, from the town of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for permission to remove the body of Jesus from the cross. He placed Jesus in Mary's arms and together they wrapped the body in a linen sheet. Filled with sorrow, Mary looked at the body of her son. She had loved and cared for Him through His boyhood, and had been at his side when he was a man. Now his life was over.

ALL: If we had been there Jesus, we would have done just what Joseph did. We would have taken your body down from the cross with dignity and with love. We would have comforted Mary and stayed with her.

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

Today we have a tremendous challenge to live our faith. How do we measure up as active people in the church, in the community, our schools and homes?

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.



LEADER: The Fourteenth Station:
Jesus is placed in the tomb.

We adore you O Christ and we
praise you.

ALL: ***Because by your Holy Cross
you have redeemed the
world.***

LEADER: Joseph of Arimathea carried Jesus' body to a grave that had been carved out of a rock – a grave that had never been used. After he put the body inside, he rolled a stone to cover the entrance. Slowly and sadly, Mary, who had gone to the tomb with Joseph, left her son there, believing that she would never see Him again.

ALL: ***If we had been there Jesus, we would have helped carry your body to the grave and we would have put our own pillows and blankets beneath it.***

But we were not there. We are only here now, remembering.

When do we stop and put others before ourselves? Making sacrifices is a difficult thing to do. However, look at Jesus and the ultimate sacrifice He made for us!

Jesus please teach us how to follow you.

LEADER: The Fifteenth Station:
The Resurrection of Jesus.

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL: *Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

LEADER: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome, brought spices that they might go and anoint Jesus. Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had just risen, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?" But looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back. Upon entering the tomb, they were amazed to see a young man sitting at the right side and clothed in white. He said to them, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen from the dead. He is not here."

ALL: *If we had been there Jesus, we would have shouted for joy. We would have run with the women and called out the good news: "Jesus is alive! He has risen!" We would have hugged Mary and gone to the empty tomb. We would have prayed our thanks. We thank God for the great gift of Jesus' life and the great gift of our lives.*

We praise you, God our Father, and we thank you for your love. You so loved the world that you sent your son Jesus to be one of us. Because of his death and resurrection, we are yours and will be with you forever in Heaven. Help us to remember your love each day, and to show our love for you by the way we live. Amen

In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. Amen.