

STATIONS ~OF~ THE CROSS

A MEDITATION FOR LENT



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

2025

A LETTER FROM THE PRAYER MINISTRY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Dear Friends:

Thank you for choosing to pray through the Stations of the Cross. We hope you recognize the unrelenting love of God our Father and feel that love through the words of Scripture and the artwork depicting the last moments of Christ's earthly life. Christians over the centuries have prayed through the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten Season. This particular version of the Stations depicts scenes derived from the Gospel accounts. We are glad to participate in this contemplative practice.

On Thursday, May st, please join us for our annual Prayer Walk to the National Day of Prayer gathering at Main Plaza. For more details or volunteer opportunities, contact Eva Eckburg: eva.eckburg@yahoo.com.

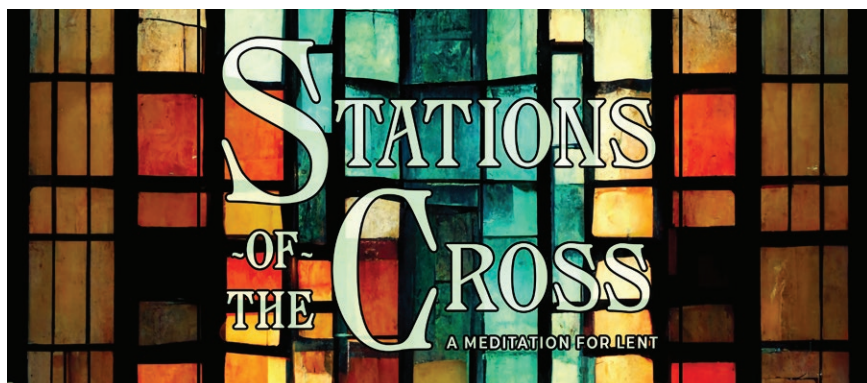
"...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7).

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayer." (Acts 2:42).

Prayer Ministry at First Presbyterian Church provides many touchstones throughout the liturgical year that draw us into a more intimate relationship with the Living God through Jesus Christ. For more information about Prayer Ministry at First Presbyterian Church, contact

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Congregational Care Pastor

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Prayer Ministry Chair



The practice of praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent has a rich history in the Christian tradition, though its exact origins are unknown. While often associated with the Roman Catholic Church, this tradition is embraced by Christians worldwide. Some may have even walked the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, the path Jesus took from his trial to Calvary. The Stations of the Cross reflect this final journey of Christ.

There are numerous Protestant versions of the Stations of the Cross. This year, at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio (FPCSA), we are observing a version based on a Biblical Stations of the Cross that was first prepared nearly thirty years ago. Our Prayer Committee has adapted and condensed it to better serve our congregation.

We encourage you to pray at each station using the printed scriptures or by scanning the QR code to access them on your mobile device. Reflect on Christ's sacrifice and say a brief prayer before advancing to the next station.

We invite both our members and guests to pray for our congregation and community using the stations of the cross positioned throughout the church building at least once during Lent. Whether praying alone or with others, this is an ideal, straightforward activity for families or small groups, accessible any time the church is open. Join us in prayer this Lenten Season.

For those unable to visit the church in person, booklets are available online at bit.ly/fpcsa-lent. Deacons who wish to distribute printed copies to their congregants can contact communications@fpcsat.org.

STATION 1: JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE



*"Gethsemane: Not my will, but thine be done."
First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas. 1922-1924.*

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:36-39).

God loves us so much that... Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him (Hebrews 5:8-9).

STATION 2: JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED



“Judas Iscariot kissing Jesus to identify him to the soldiers.”

East transept of St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea, Ireland. By Sarah Purser (design, 1908) and Alfred Ernest Child (glass painting, 1912). Photo by Andreas F. Borchert.

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Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, “the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely.” He came and immediately went over to him and said, “Rabbi.” And he kissed him. At this, they laid hands on him and arrested him (Mark 14:43-46).

God loves us so much that... The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

STATION 3: PILATE CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE



“Appearance Before Pilate.” Bay 104 of the Saint-Martin-de-Tours church in Servon-sur-Vilaine, France (35). Photo by GO69. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer so Pilate was amazed... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified (Mark 15:1-5, 15)

God loves us so much that... Jesus was condemned in our place so that we might live without condemnation. This is why we can say with Paul, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

STATION 4: JESUS IS SCOURGED AND BEATEN

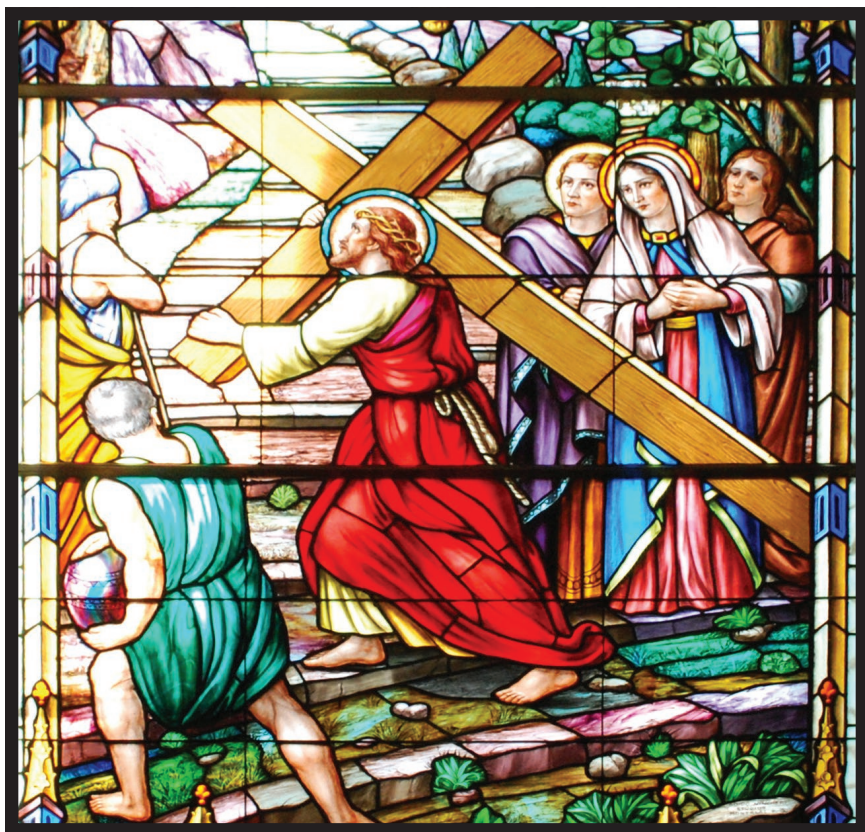


"The painful mysteries of the rosary: Flagellation of Jesus." Fa. Dr. Heinrich Oidtmann, around 1898. Church of St. Quirinus, Langenfeld, Germany. Photo by Thomas Hummel. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly (John 19:1-3).

God loves us so much that... "...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).

STATION 5: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS



*"Stations of the Cross." Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Ottawa, Canada.
Photo by Concierge.2C. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported*

When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called in Hebrew Golgotha, which means the Place of the Skull (John 19:6, 15-17).

God loves us so much that... he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:7-8)

STATION 6: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS



"Passion of Christ" (1867). Church of Saint-Laurent in Holtzheim, Germany. Photo by Ralph Hamman. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. When he had been crucified, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:33-34).

God loves us so much that... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit (Galatians 3:13-14).

STATION 8: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



*“Crucifixion of Christ.” Church of St-Sulpice in the 6th Arrondissement in Paris, France.
Photo by GFreihalter. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported*

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last (Luke 23:44-46).

But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

God loves us so much that... he gave himself for us.

STATION 9: RESURRECTION



*"The Empty Tomb: He is not here. He is risen."
First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas. 1922-1924.*

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering, they discovered the body of Jesus was not there. As they stood there, not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them: "Why do you look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he is risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in the Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful people and be crucified, and rise on the third day?" And then they remembered his words (Luke 24:1-8).

God loves us so much that... Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (1Corinthians 15:20-22).