“By your holy cross you have redeemed the world”

Stations of the Cross across the Diocese of Alabama

2020
Kee: The Stations of the Cross are intended to be used as a devotion to our Lord, inviting
the participants to walk with Jesus through His passion and death. As we walk the
way of the Cross, we follow our Lord to Golgotha, and beyond.

The Stations of the Cross we’re offering here are done as a diocesan service, so that
instead of moving from one place to another inside a parish or outside at a place
where we would gather, we’ll move around the Diocese as we move from station to
station, with different people from different parishes inviting us to walk the Stations
with them. Even online, even as we are scattered, the Stations is a contemplative
service, as we tell this familiar, terrible story that brings us together as Christians.

Kee: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Kee: Lord, have mercy.
All: Christ, have mercy.
Kee: Lord, have mercy.
All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.

Kee: We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:
All: In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.

Kee: Let us pray. (Silence)

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter
with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life
and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kee: For the First Station, we go to David Meginniss,
rector of Christ Church in Tuscaloosa.
The First Station – Jesus is Condemned to Die

David: The First Station – Jesus is Condemned to Die

David: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, “He deserves to die.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

(Silence)

Reader: “Behold your king,” says Pilate. “Away with him,” the people shout. And they sent you to your death. Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, Light for our dark world, God come to save us, may we never send you away.

David: God did not spare his own Son:

All: But delivered him up for us all.

David: Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

David: Holy God,

All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

David: For the Second Station, we go to Callie Plunkett-Brewton, Associate Rector at Trinity in Florence and Chaplain at the University of North Alabama.
The Second Station – Jesus Takes Up His Cross

*Callie:* The Second Station – Jesus Takes Up His Cross

*Callie:* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*All:* Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*Reader:* Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

(Silence)

*Reader:* You were led to Golgotha, Lord, carrying the cross by yourself. Yet was the cross only yours, or was it also mine you bore? By your holy cross, O Jesus, make me strong and able to take up the cross I must bear.

*Callie:* The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

*All:* For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

*Callie:* Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*Callie:* Holy God,

*All:* Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

*Callie:* For the Third Station, we go to Tommie Watkins, rector of St. Andrew’s in Birmingham.
The Third Station – Jesus Falls the First Time

Tommie:  The Third Station – Jesus Falls the First Time
Tommie:  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All:  Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Reader:  Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is the Lord our God.
(Silence)
Reader:  How strange to see you fall as if you were a normal man. And yet you rise again to take up the Cross and walk again. As we relive your first fall, O Jesus, help us to count on your grace when we fall, and give us your strength to help us rise.
Tommie:  Surely he has borne our griefs:
All:  And carried our sorrows.
Tommie:  Let us pray.  (Silence)

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tommie:  Holy God,
All:  Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Tommie:  For the Fourth Station, we go to Candice Frazer, rector of the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery.
The Fourth Station – Jesus Meets His Mother

_Candice:_ The Fourth Station – Jesus Meets His Mother

_Candice:_ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

_All:_ Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

_Reader:_ To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

_(Silence)_

_Reader:_ O Mother of my Savior, you stand beside your Son, as He walks the crowded streets on His way to Golgotha. Did you remember the words of Gabriel the Angel, who told you this child would be great? Or was it Simeon you recalled, who looked at your infant Son Jesus and prophesied that a sword would pierce your heart? With the love of a mother, you share his grief as one. How shall we know your sorrow, your tears beyond compare? Deep in our hearts we stand watching, hurting with you, and you call our memory there.

_Candice:_ A sword will pierce your own soul also:

_All:_ And fill your heart with bitter pain.

_Candice:_ Let us pray. *(Silence)*

_O God, who willed that in the passion of your Son a sword of grief should pierce the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary his mother: Mercifully grant that your Church, having shared with her in his passion, may be made worthy to share in the joys of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen._

_Candice:_ Holy God,

_All:_ Holy and Mighty,

_Holy Immortal One,_

_Have mercy upon us._

_Candice:_ For the Fifth Station, we go to David Whetstone, deacon at Grace Church in Anniston.
The Fifth Station – Simon Helps to Carry the Cross

David: The Fifth Station – Simon Helps to Carry the Cross
David: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Silence)

Reader: Simon, coming in from the fields, was pressed to carry your cross. Did you know him, Lord? Did he come to know you, walking by your side? As we recall your meeting with Simon, may we find you in the stranger, and in the needy we meet. Help us to remember that those who serve you come in many forms.

David: Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:
All: Cannot be my disciple.

David: Let us pray. (Silence)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

David: Holy God,
All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

David: For the Sixth Station, we go to Jayne Pool, rector of St. Mark’s in Birmingham.
The Sixth Station – A Woman Wipes Jesus’ Face

*Jayne:* The Sixth Station – A Woman Wipes Jesus’ Face

*Jayne:* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*All:* Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*Reader:* We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of men. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

(Silence)

*Reader:* A woman washed your face with a towel. Such a simple thing, a small act of kindness! A towel, a cup of water, a loving word. As we remember the gift of this woman, Lord, help us value such small things, so great when given in your name.

*Jayne:* Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

*All:* Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*Jayne:* Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Jayne:* Holy God,

*All:* Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

*Jayne:* For the Seventh Station, we go to Jeff Evans, rector of St. Stephen’s in Huntsville.
The Seventh Station – Jesus Falls a Second Time

Jeff: The Seventh Station – Jesus Falls a Second Time
Jeff: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

(Silence)

Reader: Can God fall, a mighty God, whose hands uphold all that is? By your second fall, O Lord, remind us how weak we are, help us to remember our helplessness and human frailty, and come to our assistance.

Jeff: But as for me, I am a worm and no man:
All: Scorned by all and despised by the people.
Jeff: Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Jeff: Holy God,
All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Jeff: For the Eighth Station, we go to Aaron Raulerson, rector of the Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville.
The Eighth Station – Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Aaron: The Eighth Station – Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
Aaron: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

(Silence)

Reader: Remind us, Lord, to be more concerned for others, and less preoccupied with our selves. Keep the grace of this memory alive in our hearts, and let us be concerned for all of the children of God.

Aaron: Those who sowed with tears:
All: Will reap with songs of joy.

Aaron: Let us pray. (Silence)

Teach your Church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children’s children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Aaron: Holy God,
All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Aaron: For the Ninth Station, we go to Katherine Harper, associate rector of St. Stephen’s in Birmingham.
The Ninth Station – Jesus Falls a Third Time

Katherine: The Ninth Station – Jesus Falls a Third Time

Katherine: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. “Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!”

(Silence)

Reader: Like water poured out, your strength is gone. You fall as if to the dust of death. By your third fall, O Lord, give us courage before our trials and patience to go on. Help us in our need.

Katherine: He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

All: And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Katherine: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Katherine: Holy God,

All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Katherine: For the Tenth Station, we go to Jamie Osborne, associate rector of the St. John’s in Montgomery.
The Tenth Station – Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing

*Jamie:* The Tenth Station – Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing

*Jamie:* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

*All:* Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

*Reader:* When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.”

(Silence)

*Reader:* The soldiers divided your garments and cast lots for your best robe. You created all the worlds, but stood before these rough men with nothing to call your own. As we relive this humiliation, Lord Christ, we ask you to clothe us in your mercy, which is rich beyond our understanding.

*Jamie:* They gave me gall to eat:

*All:* And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

*Jamie:* Let us pray. (Silence)

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Jamie:* Holy God,

*All:* Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

*Jamie:* For the Eleventh Station, we go to Glenda Curry, rector of All Saints’ in Birmingham and our bishop elect.
The Eleventh Station – Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Glenda: The Eleventh Station – Jesus is Nailed to the Cross
Glenda: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Reader: When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”
(Silence)
Reader: You were numbered among us, Lord Jesus, punished for a crime even though you were innocent. And we are guilty, Lord, we are the transgressors. Help us remember that the sins you died to take away are ours. Help us to see that Your arms are stretched out on the Cross to receive us.
Glenda: They pierce my hands and my feet:
All: They stare and gloat over me.
Glenda: Let us pray. (Silence)
Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.
Glenda: Holy God,
All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Glenda: For the Twelfth Station, we go to Andrew Pearson, dean of the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham.
The Twelfth Station – Jesus Dies on the Cross

Andrew: The Twelfth Station – Jesus Dies on the Cross

Andrew: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished!” And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit.

(Silence)

Reader: Shall we not stand and watch, Lord, at the foot of your Cross, mourning the sins you bear, rejoicing in the pardon you bestow? The price you pay is too great, to save someone like me! Help us be true to the gift you give us; help us to follow you even to our deaths, and commend our spirits into our Father’s hands.

Andrew: Christ for us became obedient unto death:

All: Even death on a cross.

Andrew: Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Andrew: Holy God,

All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Andrew: For the Thirteenth Station, we go to Kelley Hudlow, deacon at Trinity Commons in Birmingham and our Diocesan Communications Coordinator.
The Thirteenth Station - Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Kelley: The Thirteenth Station – Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Kelley: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reader: All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”

(Silence)

Reader: They put you in your mother’s arms when you were taken from the cross. Her sorrow was full, and your gift to the world was fulfilled. You died to save your Father’s willful children, many of us too proud or stubborn to accept your help. By your holy death, O Lord, give us an unfailing trust in God, and help us remember that death is not the end.

Kelley: Her tears run down her cheeks:

All: And she has none to comfort her.

Kelley: Let us pray. (Silence)

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies’ sake. 

Amen.

Kelley: Holy God,

All: Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

Kelley: For the Fourteenth Station, we go to Michael Goldsmith, rector of the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville.
The Fourteenth Station – Jesus’ Body is Laid in a Tomb

Michael: The Fourteenth Station – Jesus’ Body is Laid in a Tomb
Michael: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Reader: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.
(Silence)
Reader: You were buried in a garden tomb, like a seed fallen into the ground, waiting to rise again. Lord, as you help us trust you with our lives, help us trust you with our deaths. Help us to know that our hope is to rise again after dying with you.
Michael: You will not abandon me to the grave:
All: Nor let your holy One see corruption.
Michael: Let us pray. (Silence)
O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day: Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.
Michael: Holy God,
All: Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Michael: For the concluding prayers,
we go to back to Kee Sloan, the Bishop of Alabama.
Concluding Prayers

*Kee:* Concluding Prayers

*Kee:* Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us:

*All:* Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

*Kee:* Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Kee:* The Lord bless you, and keep you, and make his face shine upon you and those you love, this day and for ever more.

*Kee:* Let us bless the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.
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