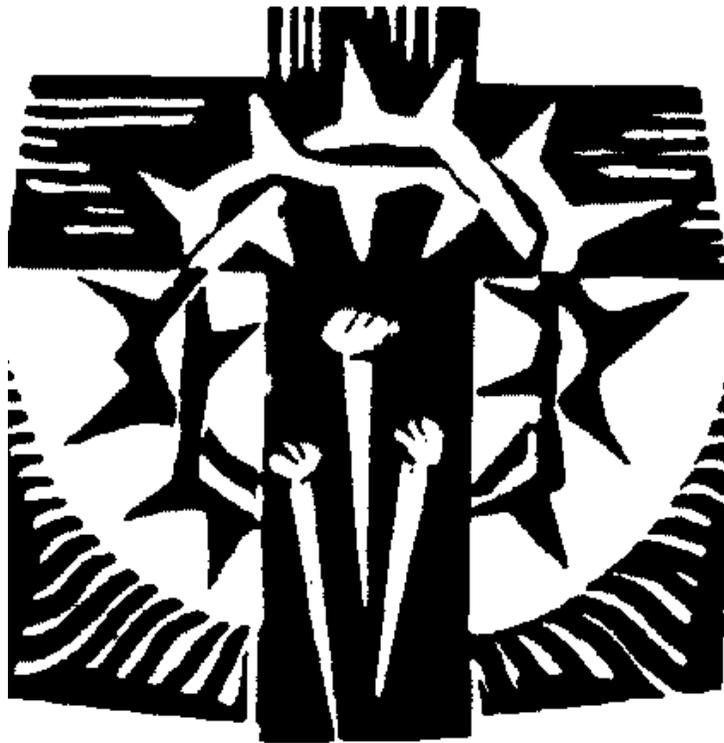


— *A Digital Project of the Regional Rural Ministries
of Brome-Missisquoi and St. George's, Chateauguay*

**A Service of Morning Prayer
with the Stations of the Cross
*for Good Friday***



“God proves his love for us in that
while we still were sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8)

Hymn 192 — “Were you there when they crucified my Lord”

(Played by Sarah Hoblyn, organist at Grace Church, Sutton)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Territorial Acknowledgement

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territory of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.

The Penitential Rite

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.

Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed;
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We pray you of your mercy, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Stations of the Cross

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Die

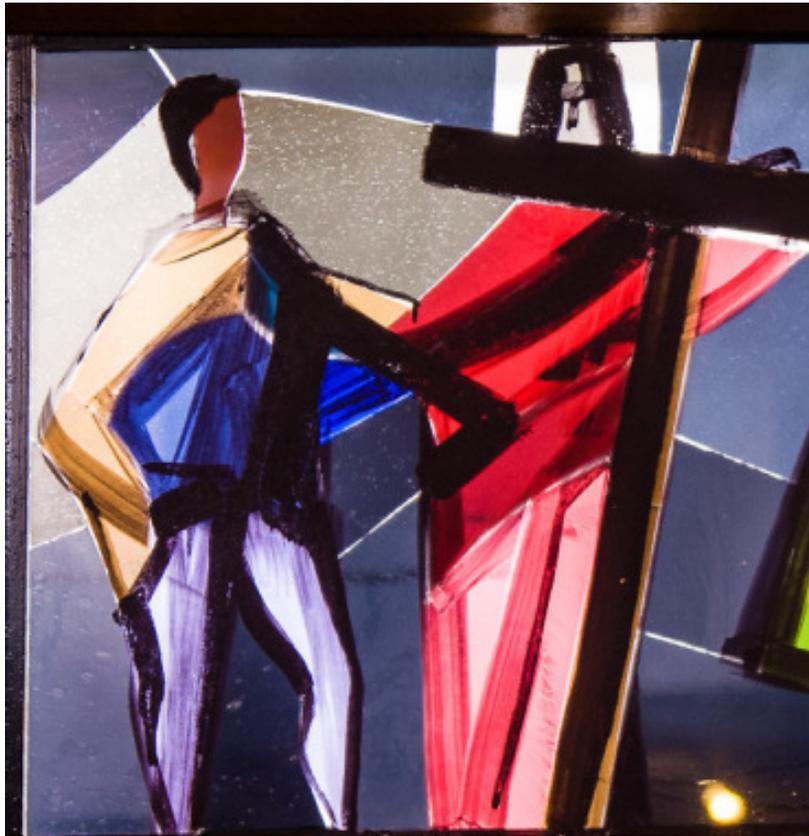


(Image: Zachary Rollins, 2010)

Betrayed. Deserted. Alone. Jesus stands before an unjust judge.
Dry palm branches crackle under the feet of the crowd.
Soldiers rain down punches and crown him with thorns.
Jesus is condemned to die.

Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, you
knew no sin and yet were sentenced to death. Assist us by your
mercy to see the judgment in our own eyes, and to remove it before we look
into the eyes of others. This we pray in the name of
Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross



(Image: Albert Chavaz, 1965)

Splinters. Heavy, rough wood. The scent of the hill country.
A single beam laid across the back of a carpenter.
The crowd jeers. The procession to the place of the skull begins.

Obedient Lord, you asked us each to take up our cross and follow
you. Then you took up your own cross and led the way not just to
Calvary, but to the empty tomb and beyond.

Give us the courage to follow you wherever you lead.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time



(Image: Sybil Andrews, 1967)

Stumble. Waver. Collapse.
Jesus' sweat mingles with dust as he falls to the earth.
The weight of the sins of the world on his shoulders.
Barely able to stand. He can not carry the cross without falling.

Lion of Judah, you know our weaknesses, our temptations and our failings. Support us by the power of the Holy Spirit that we do not stumble so as to fall away from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



(Image: Tea Schaino, 2005)

Mother and child. Madonna. There is no angelic choir.
No shepherds. No wise men.
Gone are the gold, frankincense and myrrh.
Mary sees her battered son through a veil of tears.

Son of God, son of Mary, the crowd heaps scorn and turns the
blade that pierces your mother's own soul. Grant us the grace to see
those in needless suffering and to reach out to them,
living out in action the love you have for the world.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Fifth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene



(Image: Lowdar Cathedral, Kenya, 1995)

Stranger. Neighbour. Friend.
Simon takes up your cross. In so doing takes up his own.
Another innocent man joins the procession to Calvary.

Suffering Servant, beaten beyond human semblance, through the
Good Samaritan you taught us that everyone in need is our
neighbour. Help us to follow in your way of love
and to extend the arm of justice to all those around us.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our
crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



(Image: David O'Connel, 2003)

Cloth. Sweat. Blood. Icon.

Legend tells of a woman wiping Jesus' face and
gaining an image of Christ painted in his blood on her cloth.
In relieving the suffering of others we, too, find the face of Jesus.

Immanuel, God with us, you came as the image of God made flesh
and we scorned you. May we seek not so much to do great things in your
name, but to honour you with everyday small acts of mercy done with great
love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time



(Image: Chris Woods, 1996)

Oppressed. Afflicted. Silently suffering.
Simon carries the cross, yet Jesus can not continue.
He bears our infirmities and carries our sorrows.
Crushed under their weight, Jesus falls once more.

Compassionate Christ, all we like sheep have gone astray, turning each of us to our own way. Grant that when we fall into sin, we may return from going our own way to following in yours. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



(Image: Zvonimir Athletic, 2000)

Tears. Wailing. Daughters. Mothers. Grief.
Women beat their breasts and mourn openly,
for the Son of Man, but his concern is for them and their children
in the days of woe yet to come.

Son of Man, you told the women of Jerusalem to weep not for you
but for themselves and their children. Give us the gift of tears for
our own sins, that we may mourn the ways in which we stray from your path of love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time



(Image: Albert Servaes, 1951)

Brutalized. Dazed. Beyond strength.

Now nearly on Calvary's broad summit, Jesus collapses.
Poles long set into the ground are silhouetted against grey clouds.
Impatiently, Jesus is pulled up and shoved angrily toward his death.

Loving Lord, you fell that we might rise and taught us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Help us to die to ourselves so that we might live to you and bear much fruit for your Kingdom. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes



(Image: Samuel Lucero, 1939)

King of Glory. King of Peace.
Stripped bare. The crown of thorns upon His head.
One possession remains — His life.
Holding nothing back, Jesus offers that last gift.

Bread of Life, you came that we might have abundant life;
You emptied yourself, taking the form of a slave that we might be free,
and died that we might have eternal live. Give us the grace
to be stripped bare of all that separates us from you. This we pray in
the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



(Image: Jennifer Norton, 2015)

Cold steel. Warm flesh. Nails rip through tendon and muscle.
Blood soaks into splintered wood.
Jesus responds: “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Merciful Redeemer, you declared your forgiveness from the cross,
showing love to those who killed you and to the thief dying
alongside you. Help us to forgive others and to forgive ourselves.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross



(Image: Franz Drapela, 1966)

Despised. Rejected. “Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani?
My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?”
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
From top to bottom the veil in the Temple is torn in two.

Lamb that was slain, as you cried out to your Father from the cross
we learned how deep was your suffering.
Be present with us when we feel alone, betrayed, or hurt;
be present with the isolated, the sick, the dying.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Thirteenth Station: The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Arms of Mary

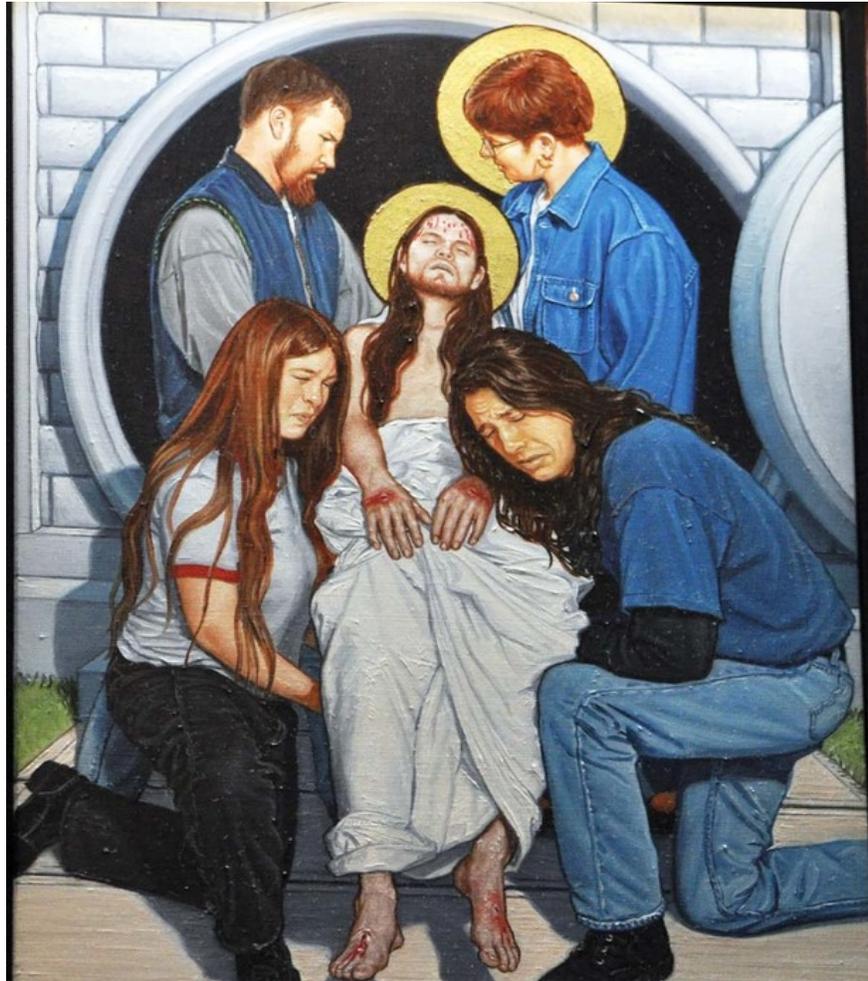


(Image: Jennifer Norton, 2015)

Mourning mother. Broken child.
A sword of grief pierces her soul.
Women surround her, but none can comfort her.
Her name is bitterness.

Crucified Savior, you are resurrection and life. In Your death and resurrection we who mourn find the peace and comfort that your own mother lacked as your body came down from the cross. Help us to bring hope and light to all who mourn. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



(Image: Chris Woods, 1996)

Cold stone. A shroud. Darkness. Sabbath rest at last.
The disciples gather in fear.
A grain of wheat waits for spring.

Alpha and Omega, You are beginning and end. In death You
conquered death so that even at the grave we praise your name.
Help us to find you as the way, the truth and the life in this broken world.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection

Father Nicholas Forte

The Solemn Intercessions

Dear people of God, our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death and become heirs with him of eternal life.

Reader 1

Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic Church of Christ throughout the world: for its unity in witness and service, for all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve, for Mary our bishop, and all the people of this diocese, for all Christians in this community, for those preparing for baptism and ordination, that the Lord will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Reader 2

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of earth, and for those in authority among them: for Elizabeth our Queen and all the Royal Family, for Justin the Prime Minister and for the government of this country, for Francois the premier of this province and the members of the legislature, for the local governments of all the communities that we come from, and for all who serve the common good, that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Reader 3

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind: for the hungry and homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, and all who suffer persecution or prejudice, for the sick, the wounded, and the handicapped, for those in loneliness, fear, and anguish; for doctors, nurses, and all medical staff.

Reader 4

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. Let us pray for all who have not received the gospel of Christ: for all who have not heard the words of salvation, for all who have lost their faith, for all whose sin has made them indifferent to Christ, for all who actively oppose Christ by word or deed, for all who are enemies of the cross of Christ, and persecutors of his disciples, for all who in the name of Christ have persecuted others, that God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Reader 5

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that with all who have departed this life and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day (Good Friday)

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for in the Time of Sickness and Mortality

Almighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness we flee unto you for aid. Deliver us, we pray, from our peril; give strength and skill to those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, as we perceive how frail and uncertain our life is, we may turn our hearts unto the heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray — chacun dans la langue de son choix,

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre
comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain
de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à
ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en
tentation
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent
le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

Hymn 386 — “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

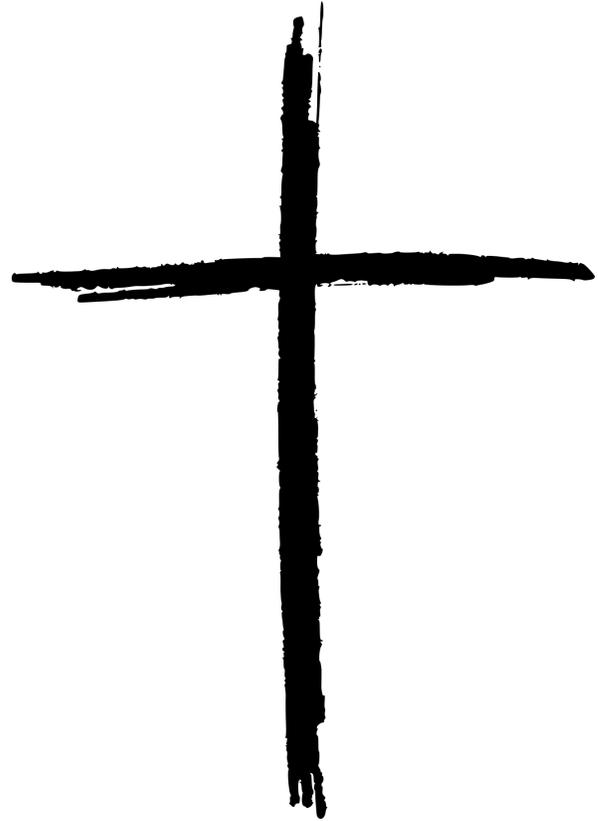
(Played by Sarah Hoblyn, organist at Grace Church, Sutton)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.



The Dismissal

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Grant them pardon; bring them comfort. May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us depart in peace.

Thanks be to God.