





TAIZÉ Stations Of The Cross

WEDNESDAY April 13, 2022 7:00 pm



116 South Highland Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

TAIZÉ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth

This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. As you enter, grab a prayer stone or palm cross to hold. Feel free to come forward to the craft table to doodle or color a mandala, come sit on prayer cushion and be closer to the front, pray with one of the icons, light a candle, or move with the music. If the songs are new to you, let their simple repeated refrains be sung over you and join in as you are able. We hope that you will become aware of the presence of the living God as you pray in this place and that you might take that awareness out with you into the world.

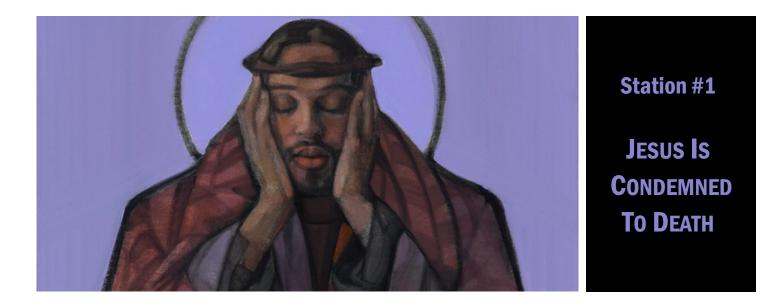
A NOTE ABOUT THE ARTWORK USED IN THIS SERVICE:

The *Stations of the Cross* images used in this bulletin and in our livestreamed (and archived) service slides of this service are from Janet McKenzie.

Vermont artist Janet McKenzie pays homage to the feminine figure through sacred and secular imagery. Ms. McKenzie's paintings depict an inner strength that often challenge and comfort the viewer. Using a variety of female forms including African American, Asian, and Caucasian women Ms. McKenzie is able create empowering images of women that are beautiful, thought provoking, and often haunting. Through her paintings Ms. McKenzie strives to convey the heart of the feminine being as a universal symbol of hope. "Women are for me sacred beings that are the foundation of life, subjects that have the power to captivate my imagination and inform my expression."

Ms. McKenzie's work is collected and exhibited around the world. At the Millennium Ms. McKenzie's image of Jesus, Jesus of the People, was selected winner of the National Catholic Reporter's "Jesus 2000 competition, by judge Sister Wendy Beckett. The painting was revealed for the first time on the "Today Show". "Jesus of the People" confronts stereotypical thinking by celebrating Jesus as African American. The feminine aspect is served by the fact that the model for this painting was a woman.

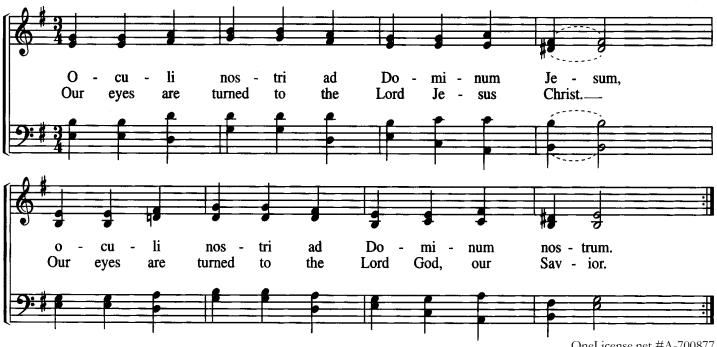
Contact Ms. McKenzie: art@janetmckenzie.com • or call 802.723.4122



Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate. "You have said so," Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again, Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. (Mark 15:5-10, 15)

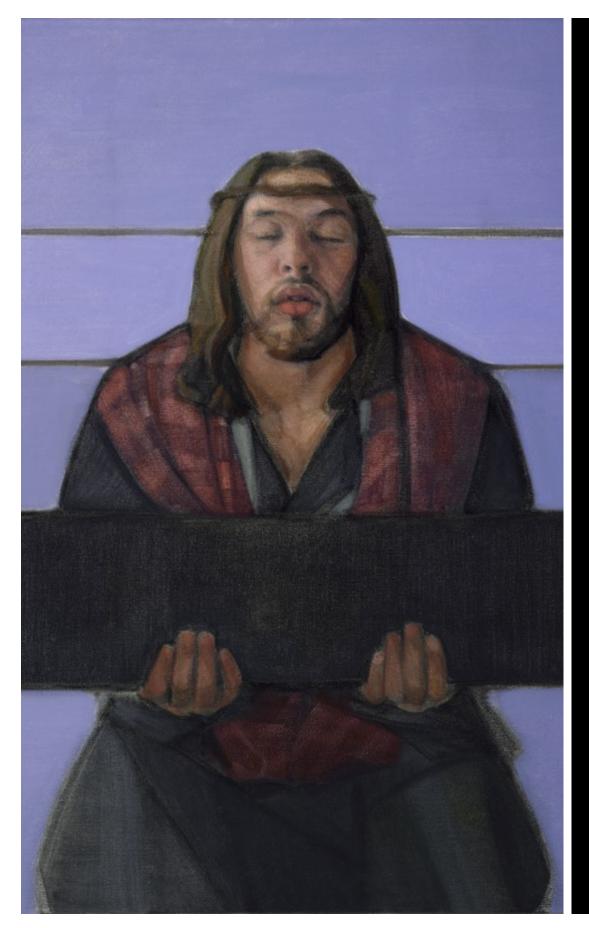
Prayer:

Lord, grant us the ability to put our trust in you when the world around us has abandoned us, our own inner resources have dwindled and we find ourselves despised by those with whom we most want to succeed.



NB17 Our Eyes Are Turned

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Station #2

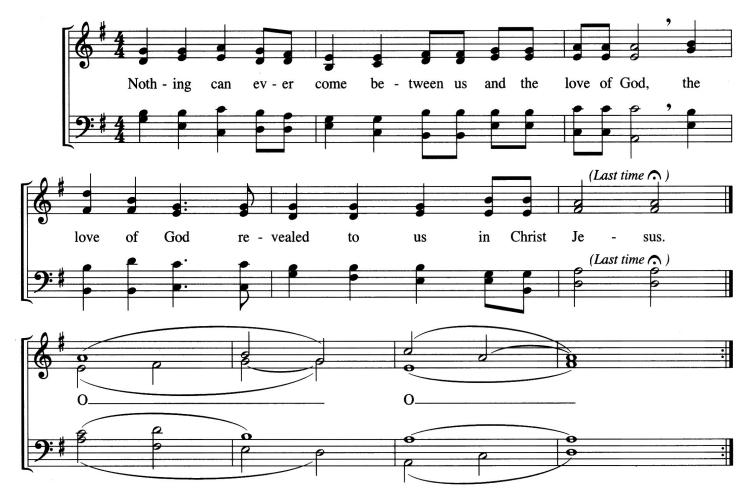
JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

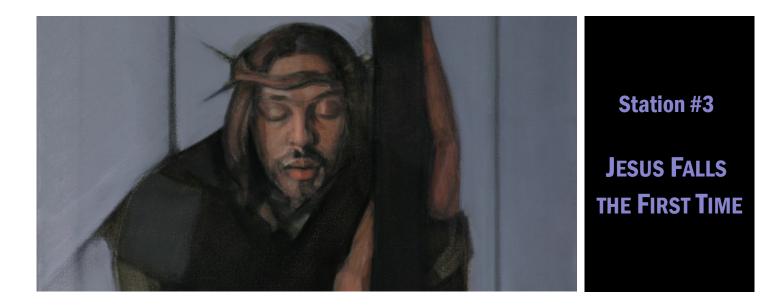
When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief 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 the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. *(John 19:6, 15-17)*

Prayer:

Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully bear our crosses each day.

CLM30 Nothing Can Ever





They surrounded me like bees; they blazed like a fire of thorns... I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me. (*Psalm 118:12-13*)

Prayer:

Lord, help us to embrace life's moments of falling and failure, when the burden is so heavy that we crumble to the ground in weakness and hear you whisper, "my grace is sufficient for you."

NB1 All You Who Pass This Way



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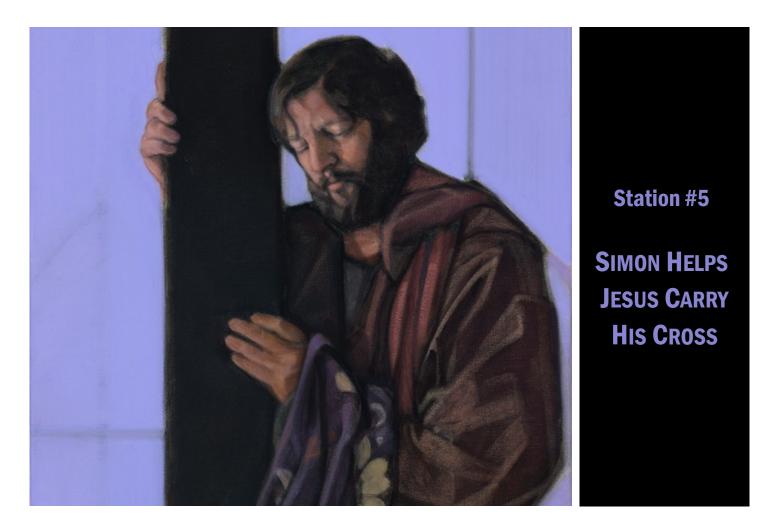
Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. *(John 19:25-27)*

Prayer:

Lord, grant us constancy that we may be willing to stand by those in need.

CLM17 Consoling Spirit Of God





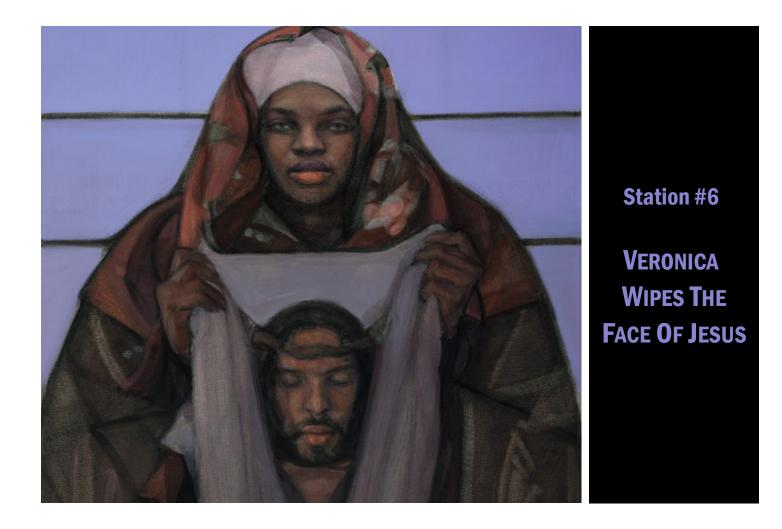
When they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. (Mark 15:20-21)

Prayer:

Lord, grant us willing spirits that we may be your instruments on earth.



NB59 There Can Be No Greater Love

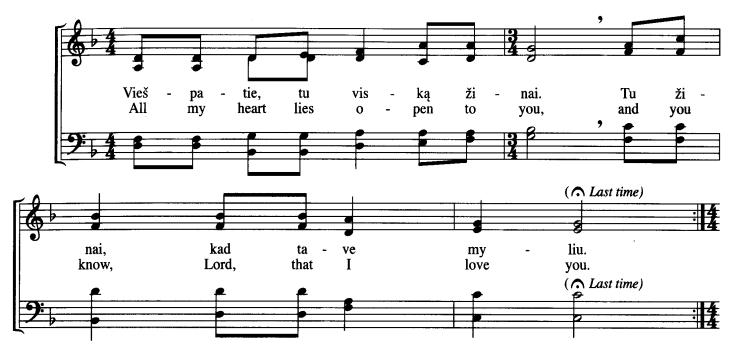


It is said the woman Veronica stepped out of the crowd as Jesus stumbled by, under the weight of the cross, to wipe the sweat and grime from his eyes, leaving an imprint of the face of Jesus on the veil she used. The legend said the image remained for centuries. Historicity aside, her symbolic act indelibly captures the heart of the injustice of the murder of Jesus on an ordinary veil and her simple, voluntary act of mercy imprinted on our collective memories amidst universal injustice and suffering. In the words of Sister Joan Chittister, "neither can be erased. Not the brutality, not the courageous compassion. Both of them prod our conscience and break our hearts forever."

Prayer:

Lord, help us to walk out of the crowd and stand against acts of injustice and embody simple acts of mercy and compassion knowing it is your face imprinted on all human suffering and injustice. *(Matthew 25:40)*

CLM38 All My Heart Lies Open To You



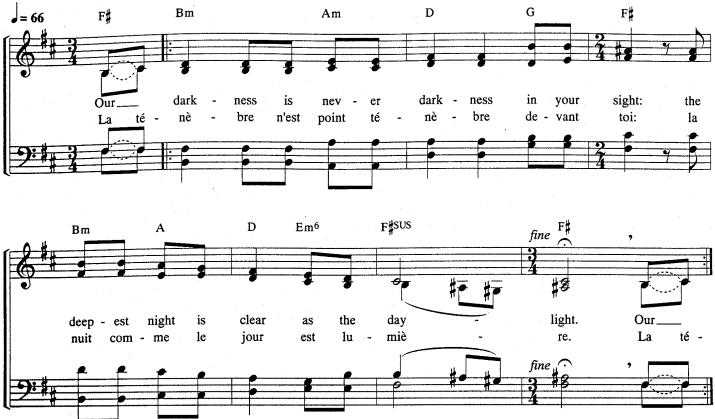




Here in the 7th station, we see Jesus fall again, more tired this time, more dejected this time, even less committed, perhaps. Why not just die in the dirt? Why try to get up at all? It is the eternal question of life in general. Yet, the Jesus who falls a second time gets up a second time determined to see this cross through to the end.

Prayer:

Lord, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame. *(Hebrews 10:1b-2a)*



NB18 Our Darkness

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JESUS MEETS THE WEEPING

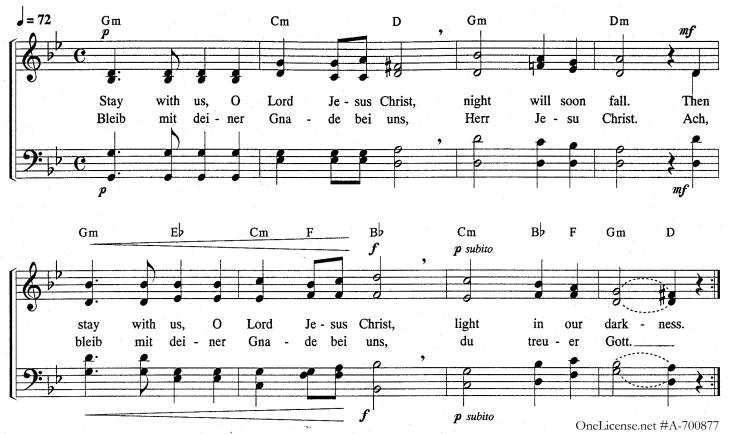
WOMEN

Reader:

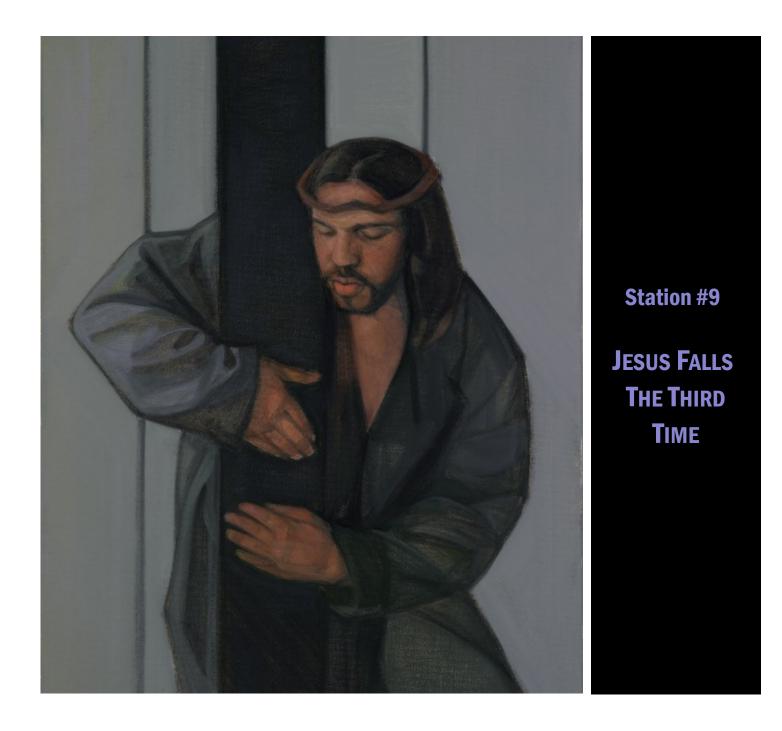
A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23:27-31)

Prayer:

Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort those who mourn.



21 Stay With Us



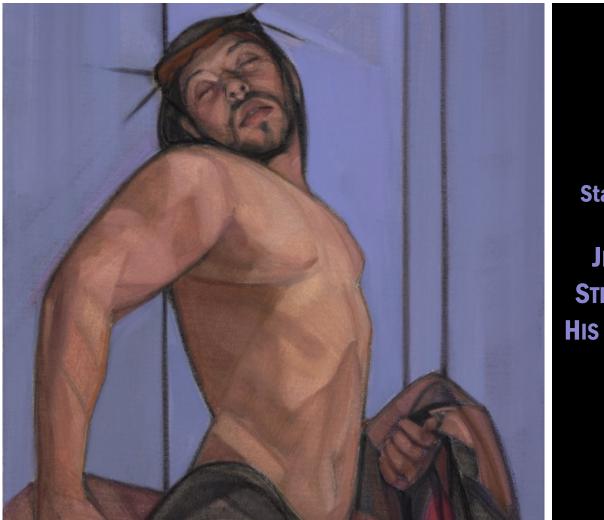
Haven already fallen twice; Jesus falls again. Spend a moment pondering the gravity of this third fall. The physical weight of the cross, the exhaustion, the humiliation, the shear struggle.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to remember Jesus' third fall and his third rising from that fall. May we know your grace is sufficient for us in our weakness, falling and failings.

NB55 Agnus Dei





Station #10

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

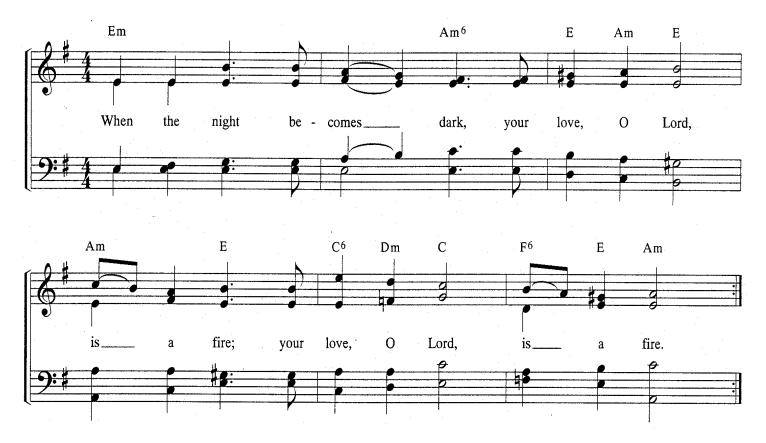
Reader:

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So, this is what the soldiers did. (John 19:23-25)

Prayer:

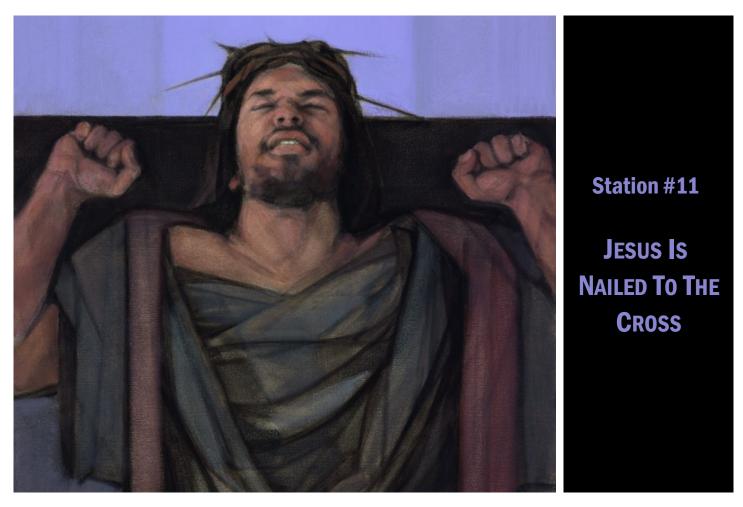
Lord, may we consider Jesus, who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that we may not grow weary or lose heart. (*Hebrews 10:3*)

25 When The Night Becomes Dark



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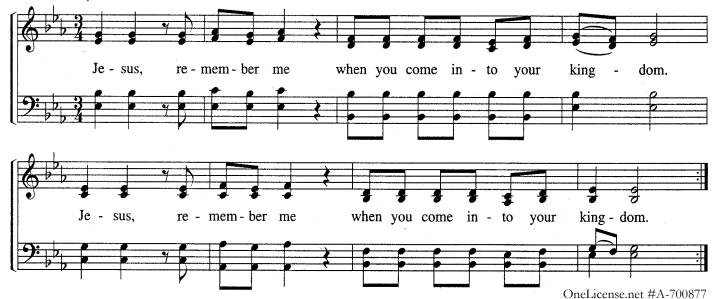




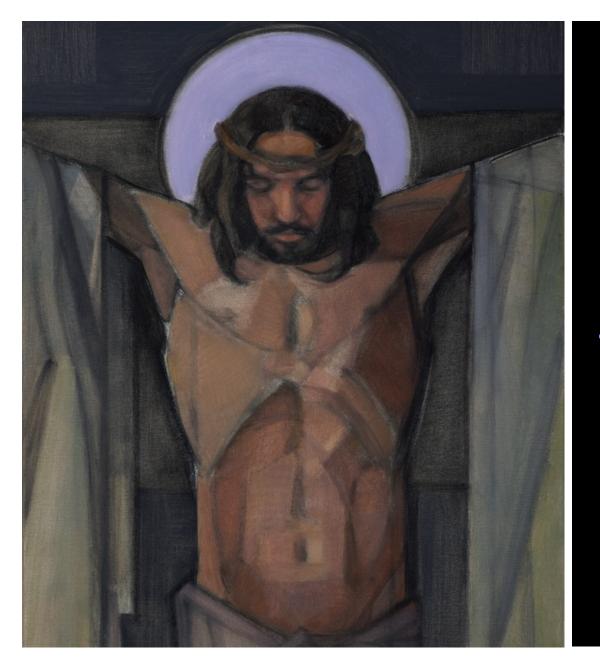
When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] (*Luke 23:33-34*)

Prayer:

Lord, grant us merciful hearts that we may bring your reconciliation and forgiveness to all.



NB11 Jesus, Remember Me



Station #12 JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

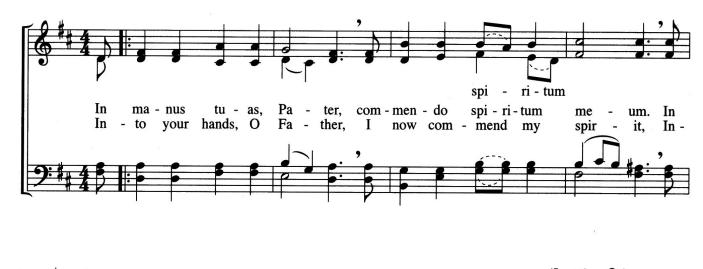
Reader:

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*)

Prayer:

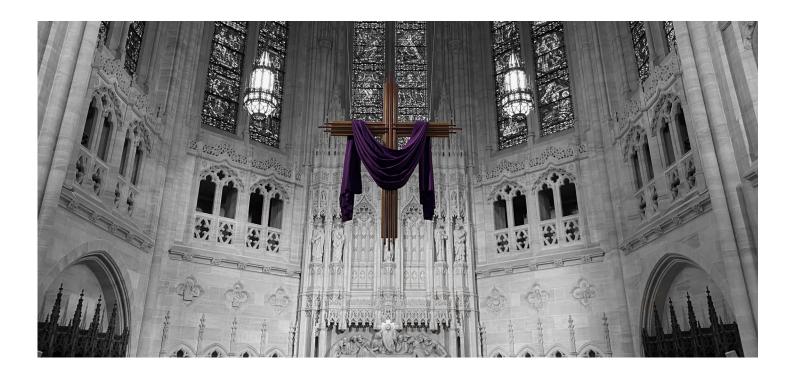
Lord, grant us trust in you that when our time on earth is ended, our spirits may come to you without delay.

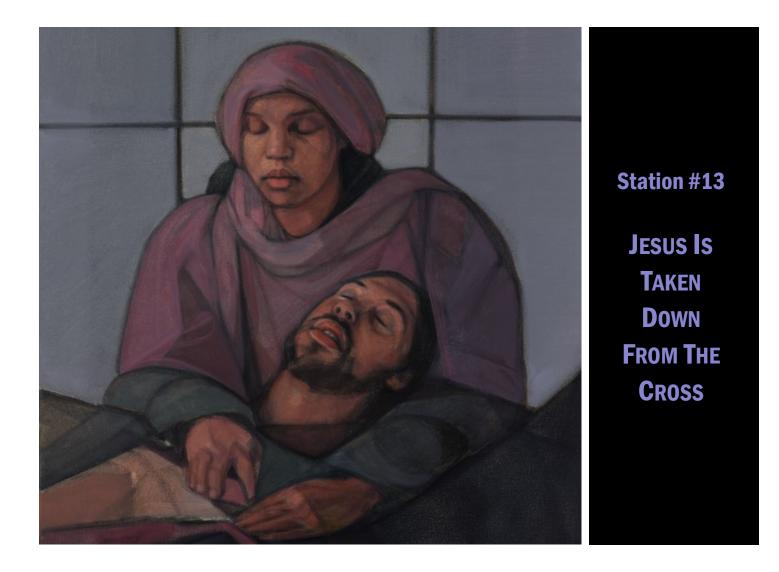
CLM21 Into Your Hands, O Father





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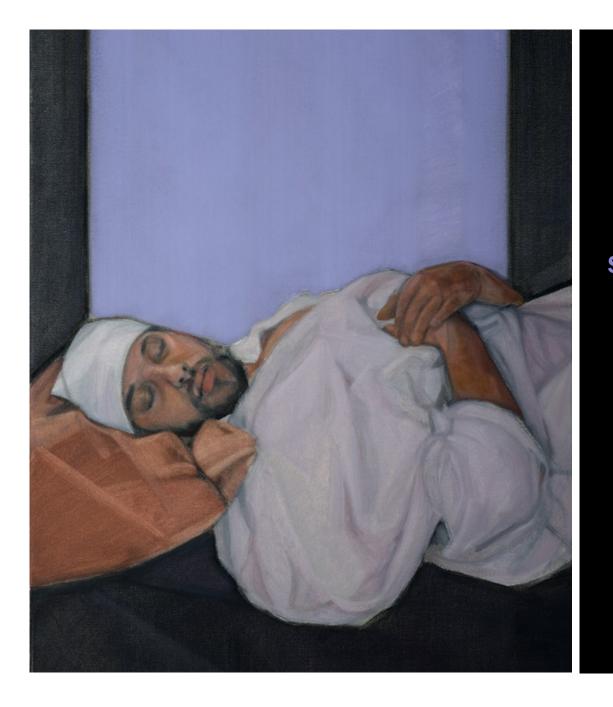


When Jesus is taken down from the cross, when hope dies, when everything we ever wanted gets thrown away, discarded, overlooked, ignored, forgotten, we eat the dust of despair. We wonder what life was ever about if this is all it comes to, despite all the goodwill, all our great struggles to have it be otherwise. Then, we realize that only God is God, that we are not in charge of time or truth or the architecture of our definition of the perfect world. Then, we understand this next step is, like Jesus, to give ourselves over to the arms of God and trust.

Prayer:

Lord, help prepare us to continue to let go of control and all the things that keep us from giving ourselves over to your arms of love in full surrender and trust of your will and your ways.





Station #14 JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Reader:

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.

Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matthew 27:57-60)

Prayer:

Lord, grant us your compassion that we may always provide for those in need.

37 Within Our Darkest Night



Closing Prayer

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit; one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

You are welcome to linger in silence. When you are ready, please also depart in silence.

All non-biblical readings are adapted from The Way of the Cross, The Path to New Life by Joan Chittister, OSB.



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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

No scented flowers are used at our worship services. Sponsor an Easter plant or contribute to the EECM Food Pantry. Order forms are available in the Narthex and Highland Lobby.



MAUNDY THURSDAY (Communion) • 7 pm Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy will lead this service



GOOD FRIDAY 7 pm • Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach on the 6th word Jesus spoke from the cross, "It is finished." at St. James AME Church (444 Lincoln Ave) from 12–3 pm.



EASTER VIGIL (Communion) • 7 pm Rev. BJ Woodworth and Rev. Dr. Randy Bush

Please note this service involves processing through the Chapel and Sanctuary.



EASTER SUNDAY (Communion) 8:45 am • Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy 9:30 am • Fellowship 11 am • Rev. Dr. Randy Bush