

GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the Gospel through worship, proclamation, and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent

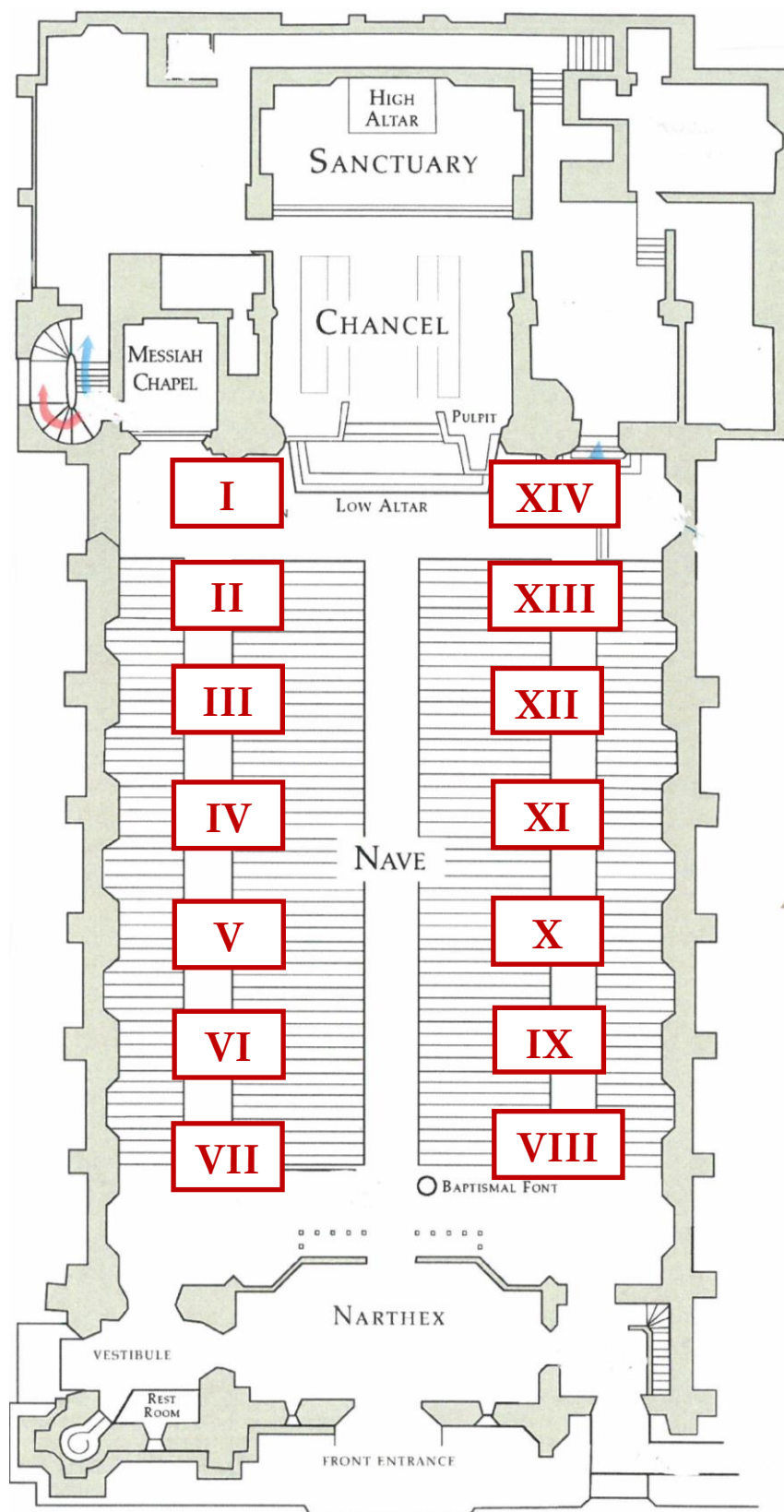
12 Noon



A note about this service

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places (stations) in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. Traditionally, the stations are made before a series of plain wooden crosses placed along the walls of the church or in some other convenient place. With each cross there is a corresponding pictorial representation of the event being commemorated. The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining six (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13) are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend. The stations we are using here at Grace were painted by Gwyneth Leech of New York City as a commission from St. Paul's Church on the Green in Norwalk, CT. The artist has kindly given us permission to use images of her work for the season of Lent.

LOCATIONS OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The service begins with all assembled at the front of the church, near the Low Altar.

THE OPENING DEVOTIONS

Officiant In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People **Amen.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

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

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.

The procession moves to the First Station.

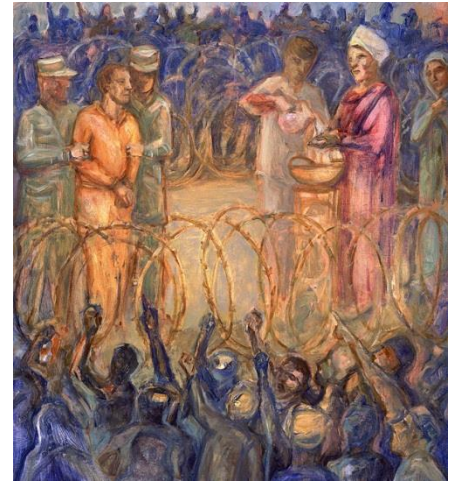


THE FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death

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

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



Officiant

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.

✠ God did not spare his own Son:
✠ **But delivered him up for us all.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Second Station.

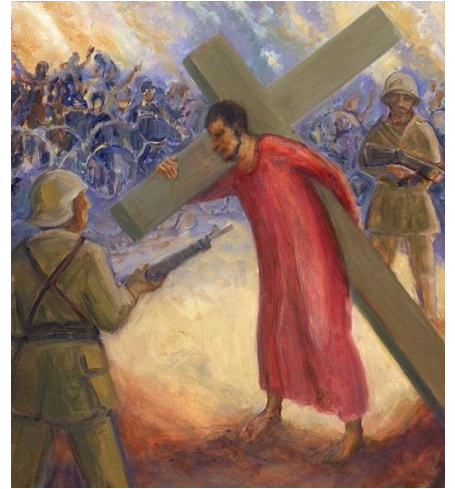


THE SECOND STATION

Jesus takes up his Cross

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

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



Officiant

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.

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

✠ **For the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Third Station.

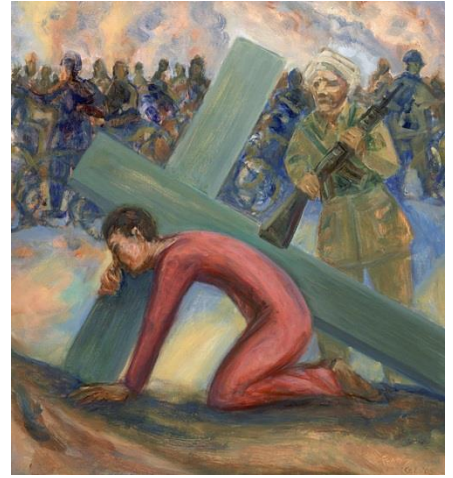


THE THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time

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

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



Officiant

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.

℣. Surely he has borne our griefs:

℟. **And carried our sorrows.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Fourth Station.

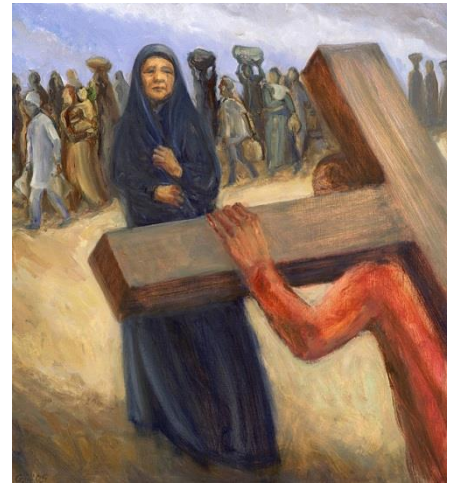


THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his afflicted mother

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

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



Officiant

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.

Ÿ. A sword will pierce your own soul also:

R. And fill your heart with bitter pain.

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Fifth Station.



THE FIFTH STATION

The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

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

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

Officiant

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.”

✠. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me:

✠ Cannot be my disciple.

Let us pray.

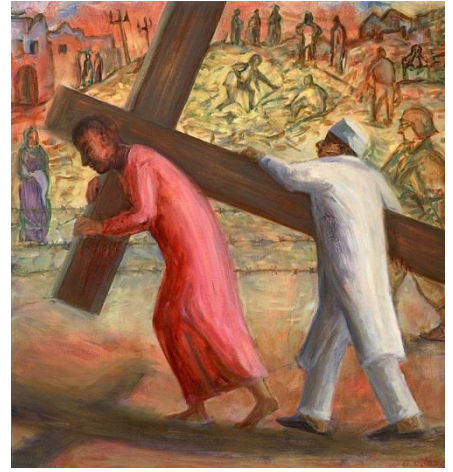
A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Sixth Station.

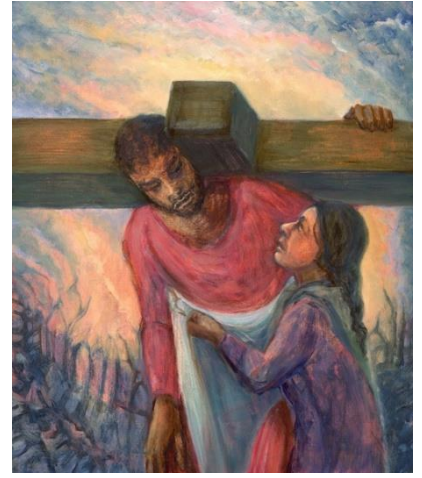


THE SIXTH STATION

A woman wipes the face of Jesus

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

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



Officiant

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.

✠. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:

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

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Seventh Station.

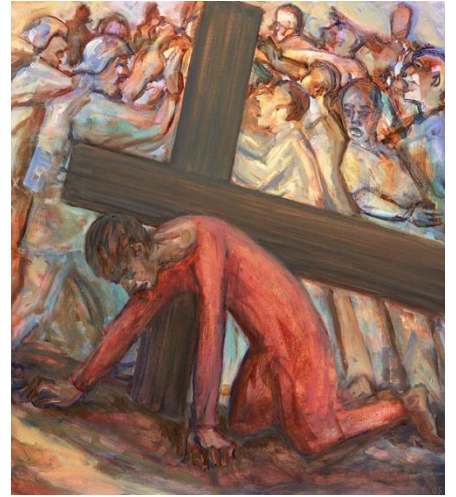


THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls a second time

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

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



Officiant

SURLEY, 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.

℣. But as for me, I am a worm and no man:

℟. **Scorned by all and despised by the people.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession goes to the Eighth Station.

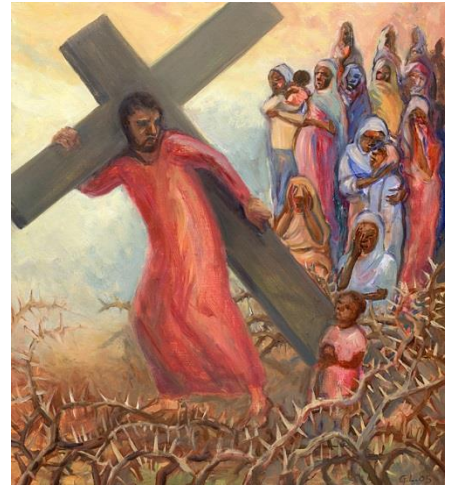


THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

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

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



Officiant

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.”

✠ Those who sowed with tears:

✠ **Will reap with songs of joy.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Ninth Station.



THE NINTH STATION

Jesus falls a third and final time

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

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

Officiant

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!"

✠. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:

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

Let us pray.

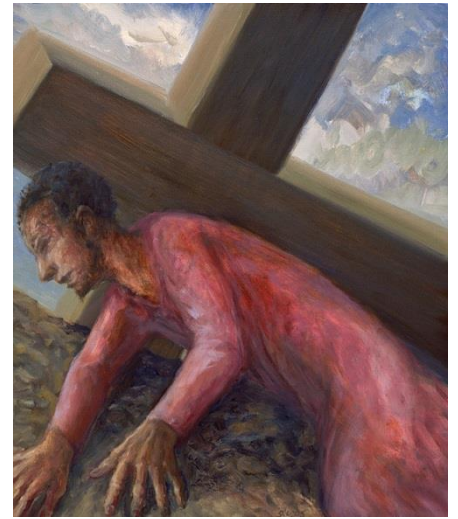
A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Tenth Station.

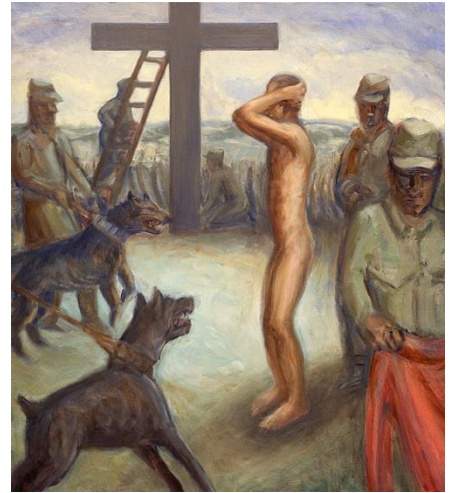


THE TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of his garments

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

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



Officiant

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.”

✠. They gave me gall to eat:

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

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Eleventh Station.

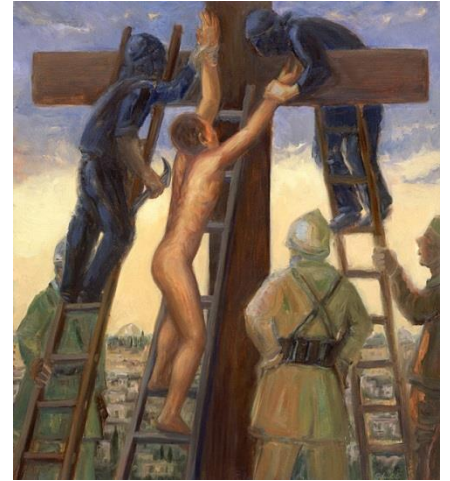


THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

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

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



Officiant

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.”

✠ They pierce my hands and my feet:

✠ **They stare and gloat over me.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Twelfth Station.

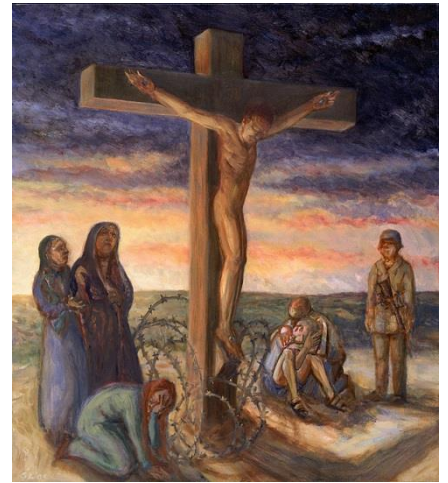


THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross

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

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



Officiant

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.

✠ Christ for us became obedient unto death:

✠ **Even death on a cross.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Thirteenth Station.

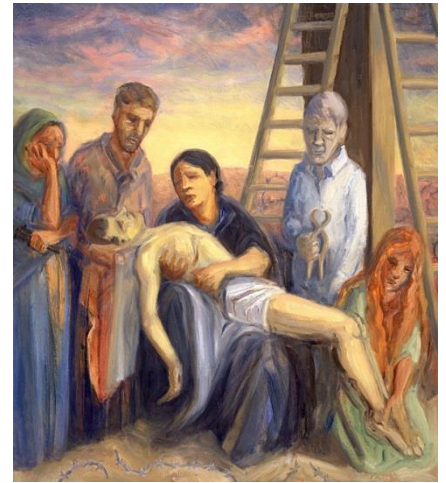


THE THIRTEENTH STATION

The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

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

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



Officiant

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.”

✠. Her tears run down her cheeks:

✠. **And she has none to comfort her.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession moves to the Fourteenth Station.

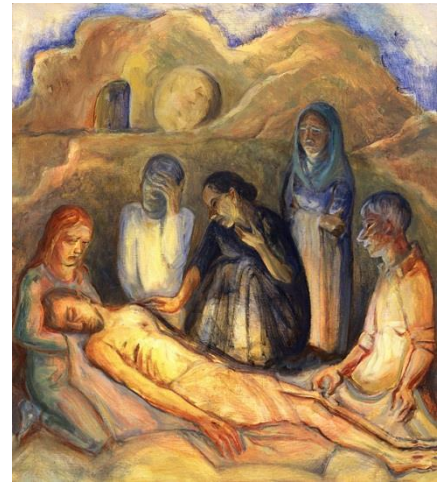


THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb

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

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



Officiant

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.

℣. You will not abandon me to the grave:

℟. **Nor let your Holy One see corruption.**

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**

Officiant and People

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

The procession returns to the altar.



THE CONCLUDING PRAYERS BEFORE THE ALTAR

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

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

Let us pray.

A brief period of silence is kept

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.**



NOTES ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS COMMISSION

Gwyneth Leech

2005

Via Crucis - the Way of the Cross. A Medieval pilgrimage through the streets of Jerusalem following Christ's walk from condemnation to crucifixion, death and burial.

Stations of the Cross - a translation of the route into 14 painted or carved "stations" which are placed around a church or along a path and used for ritual pilgrimages of prayer and meditation during the season of Lent.

Statement

The commission to paint Stations of the Cross for Saint Paul's Church on the Green, Norwalk, CT has given me an extraordinary opportunity to explore crucifixion iconography in light of current events. The year since I began work in March 2004 has

been dominated by conflict in the Middle East, especially the war in Iraq. The many photographs of the torture and humiliation of captives, whether by soldiers or by terrorists rendered the *Via Crucis* into a contemporary narrative. The paintings are also my response to the seeming deluge of images of grief in the press during this time. Gestures of mourning, sorrow and suffering from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the Gaza Strip, Israel, Russia, Sudan, the United States and from around the Indian Ocean echo Medieval paintings of the crucifixion. As the number of dead from war and natural disaster has recently reached such incomprehensible magnitude, these paintings have become a way to focus on each individual lost, and a way to remember and feel for the family and friends left behind to grieve.

Background

In approaching the commission to paint 14 Stations of the Cross for Saint Paul's, I first looked at a variety of art historical sources: paintings, sculpture, murals, stained glass and tapestries. The most compelling images for me were those that set the crucifixion in a place and dress contemporary to the artist. In the background of many Flemish crucifixions, Jerusalem is imagined as a modern fortress city set in a Northern European landscape. In these and in Italian Medieval paintings the robes of the mourners and the soldiers at the foot of the cross are more contemporary than biblical.

In studying these images I looked carefully at the depiction of grief and mourning which is such a significant part of the narrative. The gestures and expressions were strongly similar to those I was seeing in the press. I was startled by how similar these figures were, even in dress. A sampling of images in the months since I had started working on the commission came from Iraq, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Israel and the Gaza Strip. I therefore decided to use these contemporary expressions of grief that came each day in the form of newspaper imagery, underlining the enduring message of the road to Calvary and the universal nature of its emotional force.

Likewise, images of prisoner abuse gave me a new and potent understanding of the beating, stripping, humiliation and crucifixion of Jesus and I felt compelled to reference these images as well. I have blended these modern elements with traditional compositional forms, using the Gothic, European crucifixion as a starting point.

GENERAL NOTES

Setting is contemporary Middle East. Desert. Some elements of Jerusalem cityscape are used, otherwise location is not specific.

Clothing for men and women is contemporary Middle Eastern.

Soldiers' uniforms are loosely modeled on Italian colonial military uniforms from the 2nd WW - a way of updating the Roman occupying army and echoing themes of imperialism and colonialism which are raised by the situation in the Middle East today. The uniforms change from panel to panel.

The color palette is drawn from the medallions in the stained glass windows flanking each station in Saint Paul's.

Jesus wears a rough red robe, similar to traditional Muslim attire for a man. The red is picked up from the stained glass windows and is in keeping with many depictions of Jesus, from Barna Da Siena to El Greco.

Jesus is depicted as a contemporary man with short hair, sometimes bearded, sometimes clean shaven. His skin color varies through the cycle, underscoring the idea that Christ is a man like any one us.

The crown of thorns is depicted symbolically in visual references to war zone barriers: bales of barbed wire, wire fences, a fence of thorns.

There are no halos or flitting angels in the compositions, in keeping with the Via Crucis' emphasis on Christ's complete humanity.

THE STATIONS

Station I *Jesus is condemned to death*

Pilate washing his hands, Pilate's wife stands behind. Jesus is a prisoner held between two soldiers in a manner inconsistent with the physical threat he represents (based on photos from Guantanamo detention camp). The main action is set in a clear space surrounded by bales of barbed wire. An angry gesticulating crowd presses around the fence.

Station II *Jesus takes up his Cross*

In a city street, Jesus struggles to lift the cross onto his shoulders. Two soldiers holding rifles stand guard. In the background a crowd jostles behind barriers.

Station III *Jesus falls the first time*

A soldier prods him with the butt of his rifle to get up. In the background figures watch from behind barriers guarded by armed soldiers.

Station IV Jesus meets his afflicted mother

Mary is a peasant woman with dark robes pulled around her head (based on a photo of a mother standing vigil outside Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq). In the background a file of refugees walk along the horizon, carrying children and belongings.

Station V *The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene*

Simon wears Tunisian clothing - long shirt, trousers and cap. He walks out of step with the Jesus who carries the front of the cross. The way Simon is holding his end of the cross it appears to press down on Jesus' back. In the background is a devastated townscape, people picking over a pile of rubble. A woman sits and weeps with her head in her hands.

Station VI *A woman wipes the face of Jesus*

Jesus carries the cross towards the viewer, almost filling the frame. A young woman in Muslim dress stands half turned towards Jesus. She has unwrapped the veil from her head and reaches up with it to wipe Jesus' face. In the background are smoke and the skeletal ruins of buildings.

Station VII *Jesus falls a second time*

The cross is heavier and darker than the first time. The fall more jarring. There is a jostling crowd in the background, a pushing and shoving between angry men and soldiers.

Station VIII *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem*

He turns to them with an expression of concern and sadness. Here they are depicted as refugee women of Darfur, Sudan hemmed in by a white thorn fence.

Station IX *Jesus falls a third and final time*

The cross is now overwhelmingly heavy. The fallen Jesus and cross fill the frame.

Station X *Jesus is stripped of his garments*

Jesus is naked and stands with arms up, hands behind his head. He is threatened by dogs on leashes held by soldiers (based on an Abu Ghraib photo). A soldier with his

back to Jesus looks down at the red robe in his hands. The cross is being fixed into the ground in the background.

Station XI *Jesus is nailed to the Cross*

A contemporary reworking of a composition by Giovanni Baronzio (Italian, 14th Century) in which Jesus is made to climb the cross on a ladder. Soldiers stand at the bottom of two other ladders. At the top of these are two executioners, clad all in black, their faces covered. Dark clouds are beginning to move into the sky, a contemporary view of Jerusalem in the background.

Station XII *Jesus dies on the Cross*

Inspired by paintings of Gerard David (Flemish, 15th Century). Jesus' head drops at the moment of death. Black sky fills the top half of the painting. At the foot of the cross are three grieving Mary's (based on a photo of women grieving a car bomb victim). Joseph of Arimathea and John support each other as they weep (based on a photo of a son supporting his father when they learn of the death of another son held hostage in Iraq). A modern soldier looks up at the cross, representing the Centurion who recognized Jesus only at the moment of his death.

Station XIII *The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother*

Inspired by Northern European sculptures of the Pieta. The Mary is the same Iraqi peasant woman from Station IV. Mary Magdalene kneels and holds Jesus' feet. Figures cluster around the foot of the cross. Barbed wire traces across the background.

Station XIV *Jesus is laid in the tomb*

Inspired by a 16th Century Flemish painting by Petrus Christus, Jesus' dead body fills the foreground about to be wrapped for burial. In the center, Mary reaches out to gently touch his shoulder as if he were asleep (based on a photo of a mother grieving her dead child from Beslan in Russia). Behind is the open mouth of the tomb with the wheel of stone waiting to be rolled into place.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

New York City artist, Gwyneth Leech has exhibited her drawings, paintings and installations in museum, commercial gallery, public art and alternative spaces across the United States and the United Kingdom.

Since 2015, she has been focused on documenting in oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors and ink drawings the progress at numerous interior and exterior construction sites in Midtown Manhattan as the area undergoes major physical and demographic changes.

"Construction Paintings", her first exhibition of this new artwork, was on view in Fall 2016 at the head office of Sciame LLC, a construction company in New York City. In February and March 2018 she exhibited "Construction Series" in the Kaufman Arcade, a public art space in the Garment District, NYC, as well as showing selected paintings in group gallery shows in Massachusetts and in New Jersey. In 2019, "Construction Sites" was on view at the Clinton / Hell's Kitchen Studios Gallery and she was included in "Picturing Space", a group shows at FIT in Manhattan. Her construction site artwork has been featured on NY1 television news, in The Village Voice, on multiple art and real estate blogs and in international media. This body of work is the subject of a multi-award winning short documentary, The Monolith, from New York City director Angelo Guglielmo.

Gwyneth Leech holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, U.K. The recipient of numerous awards and grants, including a Hell's Kitchen Foundation Grant, several Scottish Arts Council awards, a University of Colorado's President's Fund Grant, an Elizabeth Greenshields Memorial Award and a Thouron Fellowship, Leech's artwork resides in private and public collections. Recent corporate acquisitions include Brookfield, Cimolai, Despé Italia, Metropolitan Walters, NYC Constructors/Banker Steel, Sciame LLC, SL Green Realty and Stonebridge Inc.



Cover art: "Calvary" by James Martin



LENT 2021

AT GRACE CHURCH

Tuesdays at Ten 'Virtual' Lecture Series

Pre-Recorded Lectures on various topics, sent via email & posted on the website, Facebook, & YouTube.

February 23: *Making the Stations of the Cross* – Gwyneth Leech, *Artist*

March 2: *The Christian East* – The Rev. Canon Jonathan Huyck, *Rector*

March 9: *The Creative Process of Making Vestments* – Sue Hall, *Seamstress*

March 16: *Martyrdom to Monasticism* – The Rev. Hartwell Hylton, *Deacon*

March 23: *Modern Monastic Life* – Drake Douglas, *Postulant for Holy Orders*

Thursdays at Noon Concerts

February 18: Vince Edwards, Organ

Organist & Director of Music, Grace Church in Providence, RI

February 25: Juan Carlos Rios, Piano

Director of Music, Church of the Redeemer, Providence RI

March 4: Michael Bahmann, Harpsichord

Organist, United Congregational Church, Little Compton, RI

March 11: David Heinze, Organ

Associate Director of Music, Grace Church in Providence, RI

March 18: Agita Arista, Flute

Boston, MA

March 25: Steve Young, Organ

Organist, Saint Martin's Church, Providence, RI

Fridays during Lent

(February 19 – March 26)

12 Noon – 12:30 PM

The Way of the Cross (*Live-streamed*)



GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

300 Westminister Street • Providence • RI • 02903

401-331-3225 • www.GraceChurchProvidence.org