

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Station 1 The Upper Room

Scripture Mark 14: 12-25

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Prayer (adapted from Iona Dawn)

Lord of every pilgrim heart, may I journey with You today remembering those who plotted against you; who betrayed you; who shared the Passover with you; who denied you; who prayed with you, who left you alone, who arrested you; who mocked you – that my own life may again be propelled to a deeper understanding of the One who holds us all, through your surprising Spirit, alive in our midst. Amen.

Notes David Kaylor, with assistance from his wife Dot, has used hand-drafted wood pieces to define the upper room area. Simple fabric swatches complete the tableau.

Hymn *An upper room did our Lord prepare,
For those he loved until the end:
And his disciples still gather there
To celebrate their risen Friend.*

Fred Pratt Green

Station 2 Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Scripture Mark 14:26-42

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Even though all become deserters, I will not.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' But he said vehemently, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'



Prayer (adapted from Ann Weems' *Kneeling in Jerusalem*)

O God, we pray this day:

*for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger and for those who will not
share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood and for those who
misunderstand,
for those who are captives and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love are locked within their
hearts and for those who yearn to hear those words,
for those who wish their spirits were more willing and
their flesh less weak,
for those who fall asleep rather than keep watch.*

Have mercy upon these, O God. Have mercy upon us all.

Amen.

Notes Using natural materials, Fred Berkley has brought the pastoral garden of prayer into our stations experience.

Hymn

*Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's snare;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away, learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

James Montgomery

Station 3 Jesus' arrest and trial

Scripture Mark 14:43-65, Mark 15:1-15

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth

and ran off naked. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.



Reflection

Pilate asked what crime Jesus had committed,
what evil he had done.

It was a good question.

Jesus had annoyed the religious leaders, of that there
was no doubt.

He had been critical of social and religious structures.

He had healed the villagers;

he had told stories to the crowds;

he was probably a threat to public law and order;

but was that enough to condemn him,
to end his life?

But he would not defend himself – the storyteller was
silent now and the crowd was noisy, and Pilate
handed him over to be crucified.

Prayer

Holy One, words fail us.

We want to say that we would have done it differently.

We want to claim that this is all "their" fault.

*We want to profess that we would have stood up and called
for your release rather than for Barabbas' freedom.*

We want to believe that we would have been more faithful.

And yet... would we?

Would we have taken that kind of risk for justice?

Do we take it now? Do we practice what we preach?

O Lord, forgive us. Amen.

Notes Gene Schimpf has used a variety of media to
create a multi-sensory expression of the arrest and trial
of Jesus, with references to other portions of the passion
narrative, and hints of the promise of the resurrection.

Hymn

This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping,

When powers of darkness overcome the day;

The night the faithful mourn the weight of evil

Whereby our sins the Son of Man betray,

This night the Lord by slaves shall be arrested,

He who destroys our slavery to sin;

Accused of crime, to criminals be given,

That judgment on the righteous Judge begin.

Peter Abelard

Station 4 Jesus dies on the cross

Scripture Mark 15:16-41

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Reflection (adapted from a poem by Ann Weems)

The sky peels back to purple
and thunder slaps the thighs of heaven,
and all the tears of those who grieve
fly up to the clouds and are released
and drench the earth.
the ones who see and hear
know that all is lost.
The only One named Savior
died upon a cross.
the ones who believed and loved
huddle together stunned.
All night long the angels weep.

Prayer

*Our God, is this your son Jesus hanging on the cross?
The one who healed the sick, taught us how to live in your
ways, proclaimed the coming of your reign?
The one who was to share fully in your glory and
sovereign rule?
Is it through this dying one, is it from this cross that you
assert your reign?
So this is where you reign.
You, Giver of Life, suffering, renewing, claiming dominion
Here, where the power of death would force its way:
Here at the hospital bed, where someone is dying of cancer.
Here amidst the wreckage of this relationship, when words
are used as swords.
Here in the office of SVCM, where those who wait are
measuring their hopes.
Here in the tents of Haiti, where displaced people mourn for
the homes they have lost.
Here in this world, wherever death stalks your children:
This is where you reign.
Give light to our vision, O God, that we may discover you,
Our Creator, amidst this groaning creation.
Stir faith in our hearts, that our tongues may sing and knees
bend before the exalted One who suffers.
Give strength to our love, that where life struggles to
prevail, we would bring your renewing Spirit.
We pray, as we would live, in the name of the One whose
power is shaped as a cross: Jesus, our Christ. Amen.*

Notes Martha Jane Peterson has fashioned a large cross for this station. It reminds us of the torn temple shroud as well as the crown of thorns Jesus was forced to wear.

Hymn

*Man of sorrows, what a name for the Son of God who came
ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah, what a Savior!
Lifted up was he to die, "It is finished" was his cry; now in
heaven exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

Philip B. Bliss



Station 5 Jesus is laid in the tomb

Scripture Mark 15:42-47

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

Reflection

The door is shut now, and the world sighs and waits.
And we wait in night's darkness,
longing for the morning, longing for the light.

Prayer

*For all who are waiting.
For all who are longing for light:
God in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.*

Notes A paper mache stone defines the tomb where Jesus was buried. The structure was built by Andy Gwynn, with children from our Logos program and children from the weekday school doing much of the design of the stone.

Hymn

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

African-American Spiritual