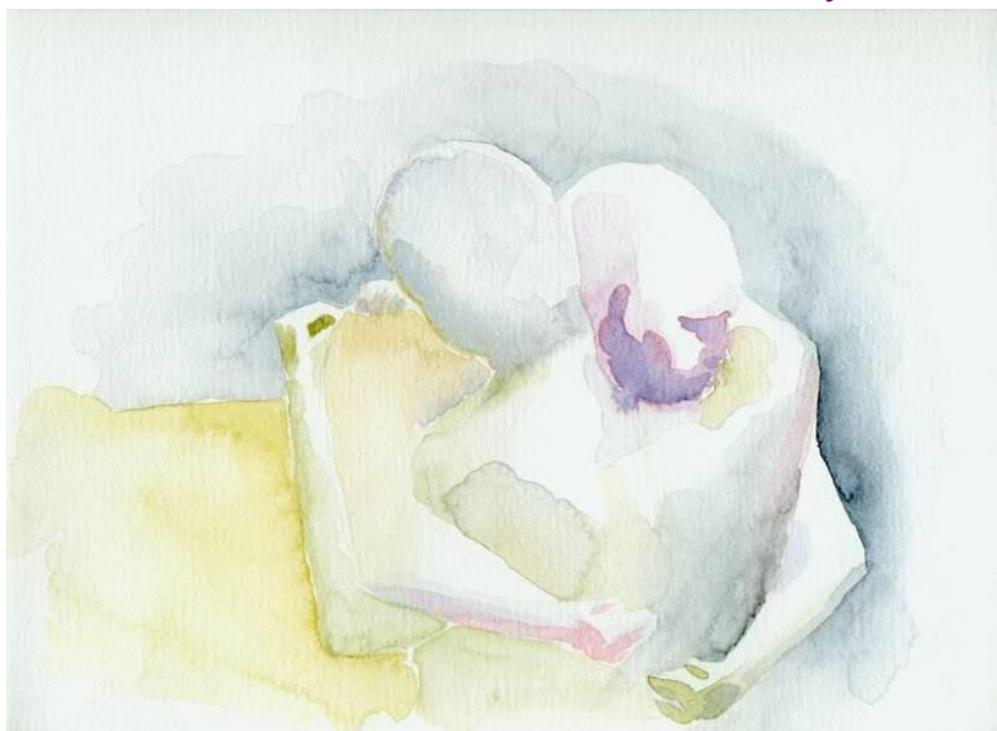


The Way of the Cross in Troubled Times

Pausing at Stations
Which are Rooted in Sacred Scripture



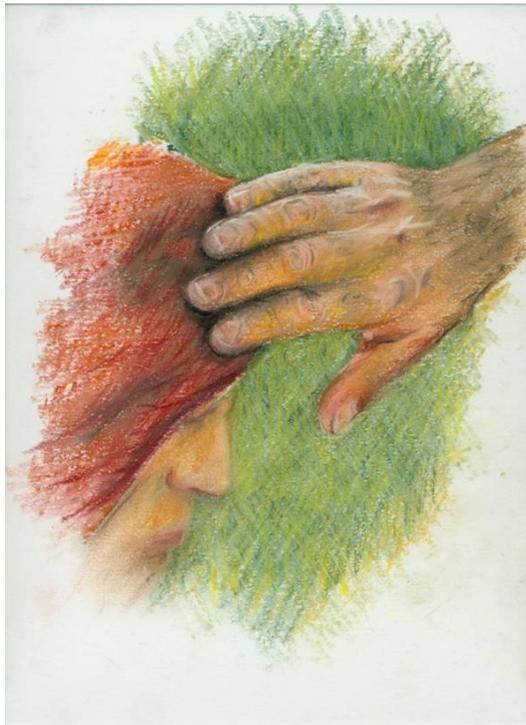
Mark Hakomaki

Bill Huebsch

Introduction

During Holy Week in 1991, Pope John Paul II celebrated the Way of the Cross at the Coliseum in Rome. During that celebration, he omitted some of the traditional stations and added others so that each station was based in Scripture. We are following his new order here. Other popes and many people have been praying this more scripturally rooted journey now for nearly twenty years.

Thus, the three falls of Jesus, the encounter with his mother before crucifixion, and the meeting with Veronica were all omitted. In their place were added key stories from the Gospels about the last days of Jesus' life: the Garden of Olives, the betrayals of Judas and Peter, Pilate's judgment, the scourging, Jesus' final words to the criminal beside him on the cross, and his words to Mary and John as they awaited his death.



What is important is that, in praying this wonderful and ancient prayer, we come to grips with the reality of God's love and mercy - and that we come to live differently because of it. In this particular presentation of the Stations, we are also offered an opportunity to reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit in the modern church expressed through Pope John XXIII, who called the second Vatican Council nearly fifty years ago. As we pray here, we bring together the final steps of Jesus with the those of Pope John - one inaugurating the Reign of God on Earth - and the other calling us to fidelity in our mission of proclaiming God's Reign in today's world. What a powerful way to pray!

Suggestions for use

In most churches around the world, the tablets or statues depicting the Way of the Cross will not follow the order set down in this new Scriptural version. That should not stand in the way however, of the Church's desire to root its divine worship in Sacred Scripture.

When using this version in a traditional setting, it is best not to alter Church art but rather to commemorate these stations as though the art depicted them. The effect of the worship will be no less profound!

1. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The First Station: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Luke 22:39-46)

LEADER Jesus, Lord and Giver of Life, we know that you prayed in the Garden of Olives with trouble lurking at the gate! We know that you turned your own heart to God, seeking only what God's will is for us all: to love without end, to forgive without ceasing, and to live forever in God's presence. May your example of fidelity guide us as we gradually become the kind of people who follow you more nearly.

Responsorial Psalm (102:1-4, 8)

ALL Hear my prayer, Yahweh,
let my cry come to you.
Do not hide your face from me now
for I am in trouble.
Listen to me; answer me quickly when I call.
For my days disappear like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.
My heart is stricken and withered like grass;
All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who deride me
use my name like a curse.

Reflection

LEADER Like so many men and women around the world, Jesus knew that prayer was his only source of strength when times are troubled. Knowing that his hour was near, Jesus turned to God. Let us pause here to examine our lives. When have we failed to trust in God? When have we failed to allow prayer to guide us? When have we tried to go it alone, rejecting the divine force of love offered constantly by Christ?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Second Station: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Matthew 26:45-49)

LEADER Jesus, it's difficult for us to imagine how painful it must have been for you to be betrayed to death by one of your closest friends. And yet throughout our troubled world, men and women are betrayed every day. They are betrayed by selfishness and greed, by hatred and rejection, by violence and all forms of human cruelty. Jesus, walk with us through these times. Be our friend and companion. Help us to keep our souls pure and our hearts ready for love.

Responsorial Psalm (37:1-6)

ALL Do not worry because of wicked people
and do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like grass,
and wither like green plants.

Trust in the Divine Presence
and do good deeds.

In that way you will be at home where you are
and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Presence of God
who will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way of living to the Divine Spirit.
Trust God who will act.

God will make your virtue shine like the light,
and the right nature of your cause
like the noonday sun!

Reflection

LEADER Let us pause here to examine our own consciences. How have we betrayed those around us? How have we used the guise of intimacy to get what we want from someone else? How have we allowed our desire for money, or pride, or security to allow us to do what Judas did: to betray the needs and life of the Body of Christ?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



3. Jesus is Condemned to Death by the Sanhedrin

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Third Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death by the Sanhedrin

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Mark 14:56-64)

LEADER We need only read the daily newspaper to know about who is being condemned to death today. Like Jesus, many innocent people around our troubled world are killed by war, terrorism, and poverty. Death seems to be all around us: snipers, drugs, suicide, murder in the streets, and anger in our hearts. May we, like Jesus, stand the test and remain loving, even in the face of such horror. May we never give up our love, even if it costs us our own lives!

Responsorial Psalm (36:1-4)

ALL Sinners listen to evil deep in their hearts;
they have no awe in the face of Divine Presence.
For they lie to themselves so well
that they can no longer recognize or hate
their own sin.
Whatever they say is foolish or false.
They have ceased to act wisely and do good.
They plot their sins while lying awake at night.
I tell you, they are set on a way that is horrible.

Reflection

LEADER Let us pause to consider how we conspire in the culture of death that seems to surround us. When have we failed to speak up about the unborn? When have we failed to defend those sentenced to capital punishment? When have we failed to help end the poverty that kills so many children? And when have we allowed our own anger in the face of terrorism or violence lead us to desire revenge or retaliation?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



4. Jesus is Denied by Peter

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Luke 22:54-62)

LEADER Jesus had chosen Peter and made him a friend. Yet, Peter was one of those who denied any relationship with Christ. What a risk Jesus took in allowing Peter to be his friend and companion. As we begin our work for peace and justice, many may likewise reject us. “He demands too much,” they may say, or “She is too committed to justice,” some may think. May we risk this level of rejection as we stand up for justice, for what is right, and for peace.

Responsorial Psalm (38: 1-4)

ALL Oh God, do not punish me in your anger,
or discipline me in your rage.
For your arrows have pierced me,
and your hand has come down on me.
I experience no wholeness in my body
because of your fury;
I am unhealthy to my very bones
and it’s all because of my sin.
For my sinning has now overwhelmed me
and weighs me down.
It’s a burden which is too heavy for me.

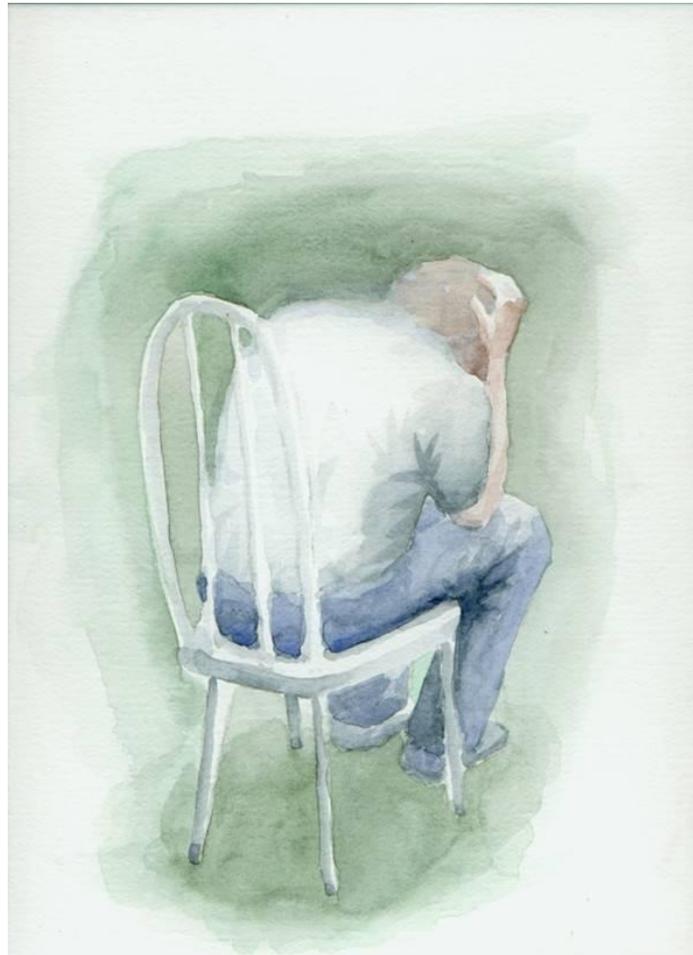
Reflection

LEADER How difficult it can be to speak up for justice, right, and peace in the face of a whole culture that seeks revenge, selfish gains, and violence. But Jesus calls us all to be peacemakers, workers for justice, and liberators of the poor and rejected. Let us pause to consider how we respond to this call. When have we seen hate, but remained silent? When have we known about evil but done nothing? When have we allowed darkness into our own lives?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Luke 23:20-25)

LEADER Throughout our troubled world, men and women are judged by armies, terrorists, and civil courts to lives of pain and hardship and even to death itself. No one feels safe. Everyone is in danger. The simple act of going to one's office, or buying groceries, or meeting one's children at school can result in our being harmed. In many parts of the world, a single political statement can result in many years of prison. And in other parts of the world, government propaganda leads well-meaning people to undertake acts of cruelty based on ethnicity, race, or social status.

Responsorial Psalm (35:15-20)

ALL The crowd now gathers together
and is happy that I've fallen.
They mock me: many of them I don't even know!
They scream at me and ridicule me,
grinding their teeth at me in hatred.
How long, Oh God, will you permit this?
Rescue me from these horrid beasts
and save me from these lions!
Then I will thank you in the assembly;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.
Do not let my treacherous enemies
rejoice over me,
or permit the sly sink of those who hate me.
For they do not speak peace,

but they make up lies against those
who are innocent,
the ones causing no harm among us.

Reflection

LEADER Let us pause for a moment to consider how we live our own lives. How often do we judge others to be less worthy, or less faithful, or less socially suitable than ourselves? How often do we join in judgments that lead to sentences of death, long imprisonment, or pain for others? When have we rejected those who are already hated by society? When have we failed to defend those who have no voice?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



6. Jesus is Flogged and Crowned with Thorns

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Sixth Station: Jesus is Flogged and Crowned with Thorns

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on John 19:1-3)

LEADER Public torture. Jesus endured public torture in the streets of his village. Around the world today, thousands of men and women are tortured in this way every single day. But Christians, and sometimes the Church itself, remain silent in order to protect their own security.

Responsorial Psalm (27:1-3,13-14)

ALL God is my enlightenment and my healing:
whom shall I fear?

The Divine One is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil people attack me to hurt or even kill me,
they are the ones who stumble and fall.

Even if an entire army would attack me this way,
my heart would not fear;

A full scale war could rise up against me,
but I would still be confident!

I believe I shall see the goodness of God
in the land of the living.

Trust in the Divine One!

Be strong and let your heart take courage;
I tell you again: trust in God.

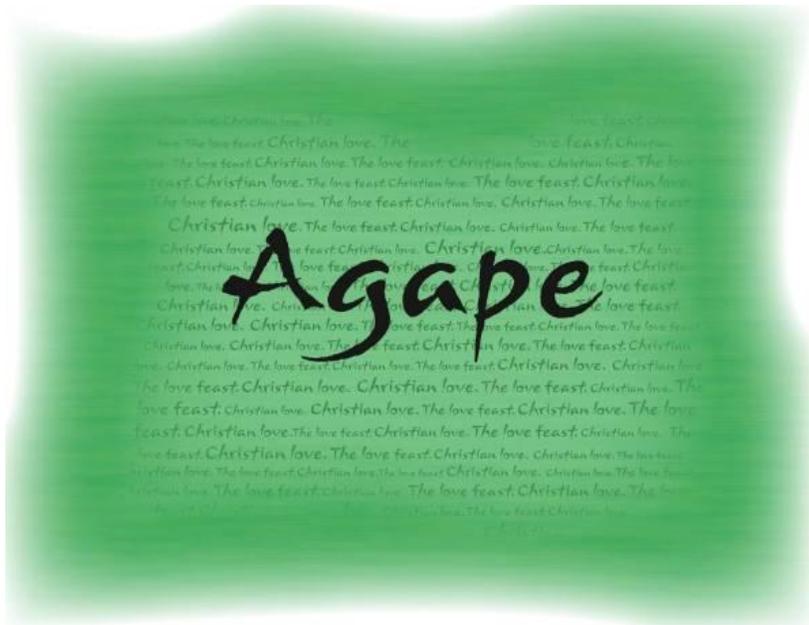
Reflection

LEADER To most of us, the idea of torturing someone else is a remote thought. We would never do that, we say. But let's just pause for a moment to think about this. When we give someone else the "silent treatment," isn't that a form of torture? When we neglect the poor, fail to visit the sick, and even when we remain silent in the face of world-wide oppression - aren't we participating in the pain and suffering of others?

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



7. Jesus Carries His Cross

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Seventh Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on John 19:17)

LEADER For people in the rich parts of the world, it's hard to get a sense of what it really means to "carry one's cross." But for the poor, every day is a burden. Getting clean water, finding medical help for a sick child, providing enough food for a single meal – all of these are daily suffering for millions around the world. We forget how rich we really are, even if we are in the poor class of a rich nation. People are carrying their crosses every single day, just as Jesus did.

Responsorial Psalm (77:1-10)

ALL I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God I cry that God may hear me.
When I am in trouble I seek the Divine One.
Throughout the night I stretch out my hand
but my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit grows weak.
I can no longer sleep in comfort!
I'm so troubled I can't even speak.
I think about the old days,
and remember years past.
All night long I'm preoccupied with this;
I meditate and ask myself:
Would God reject me forever?
Would God reach a point

where God would never again
be favorable to me?
Has God's unconditional love ceased forever?
Are God's promises ended for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has Divine anger ended mercy?

Reflection

LEADER Let us pause to remember the many people around us in this small world who suffer daily pain and agony. How do we participate in their suffering, or even cause it, by our wealthy living and ignorance of their plight? Try to imagine yourself in the shoes of a poor woman in Guatemala! Imagine yourself cleaning her house, carrying her water jugs, stoking the wood fire on which you will prepare a meager supper for your children. Try to picture her hopelessness in the face of such poverty - and now decide to help her. That's how you carry the cross of Christ - not by meditating in a chapel, but by rolling up your sleeves and getting down to work.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



8. Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Mark 15:20-21)

LEADER There are times in everyone's life when he or she just needs to have a little help! Maybe it's a nagging loneliness that just won't leave you. Maybe it's an illness that you can't bear alone. Maybe you've suffered the loss of love in your life, through death, abandonment, or imprisonment. Or maybe you have a building project going and you just need someone to hold the other end of the board. We all need help from time to time. But we also need to allow others to step in and give us the support we seek.

Responsorial Psalm (86:1-7)

ALL O God, listen to me and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am loyal to you;
save me because I am your servant
and I trust in you.

You are my God; show mercy toward me
because you are the only one
to whom I pray.

Give me reason to celebrate
for to you, O God, I lift my soul.

For you, O God, are good and forgiving,
abounding in faithful love
for all who pray to you.

So listen, O God, to my prayer;
listen to my cry for help!
When I am in trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.

Reflection

LEADER Let's pause for a moment to consider the people we know in our own lives, those close to us, who are reaching out for help right now. These are troubled times. Many people now realize that they cannot go it alone. Who are these people? It might be a neighbor. Or an older relative. It might be your child. Or your parents. Or it might be you yourself.

Paying attention to others - their needs and desires - is the basis of love. It's the point at which love can become real. Like Simon, pause here to become more aware of those near you who may be asking for your help, whether with words or by their actions.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



9. Jesus Encounters the Women of Jerusalem

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Ninth Station: Jesus Encounters the Women of Jerusalem

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Luke 23:27-31)

LEADER Jesus, we know that you worked alongside women just as you did men, calling all to be your apostles. Help us see the dignity and importance of every person you have called. Let it be for us as with you, that there was neither male nor female, neither tax collector nor fisher, neither sinner nor saint, but that all were important in your company. And then let us hear your call to repentance, to change our lives, and to be wary of the times. For as you said to these women, “if they do this when the wood is green, what will they do when it is dry?”

Responsorial Psalm (91:1-7)

ALL If you allow the Most High to be your shelter
and stay close to the Almighty One
then you can say to God:
“You are indeed my refuge and my fortress;
you are my God. I trust in you.”
For God will rescue you from the trap
set by the deadly hunter
and save you from the deadly plague.
God will cover you with protective feathers
and under those wings you will find safety.
God’s fidelity to you is a shield and protector.

You needn't fear the terrors of night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
not the pestilence that stalks in secret,
or the destruction that comes in broad daylight.
A thousand my fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but you will be safe forever!

Reflection

LEADER Around the world, women, especially poor women, are being systematically excluded from the world's gifts. In nearly every nation, it is the women who bear the burden of poverty. The women and children. For they have no voice. They have no ability to escape the pain of poverty, daily terrorism, rape, mutilation, and servitude. They toil in factories, farms, and prisons around the world. Let us pause here to recall how much Jesus cared for all men and women. And let us consider what role we may play, even if we don't mean to, in the continuing suffering of so many women around the world.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



10. Jesus is Crucified

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Mark 15:22-26)

LEADER Jesus it's hard to believe that someone as loving and caring as you were, could be dragged out and killed in the streets. The public torture you endured was bad enough, but then to be sentenced to capital punishment and have it carried out immediately must have been terrifying. May we become more aware of the women and men around us who, like you, receive this terrible judgment. And may we not be among those who stand silently by as so many today are dragged away to death.

Responsorial Psalm (22:1-7,16-18,24,31)

ALL My God, my God, why have you deserted me?

Why are you so distant from helping me,
from the words of my plea?

O my God, I spend the whole day pleading
but you give me no answer;

And I pray at night, but still I find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
a home where Israel sings its praises.

In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you remained with them.

To you they prayed and were saved;
in you they trusted,
and they were not let down.

But are you also with me?

I seem like a worm and not a human;

scorned by others,
and despised by the people.
All who see me ridicule me;
they sneer at me and shake their heads.
They have bound me hand and foot,
leaving me for dead;
I can count my bones, so depleted am I!
They divide my garments among each other
and cast lots for my clothing!
But Yahweh has not ignored the poor
and has not hidden from them
but has answered when they called!
Therefore we will proclaim you to generations
who have not yet been born!

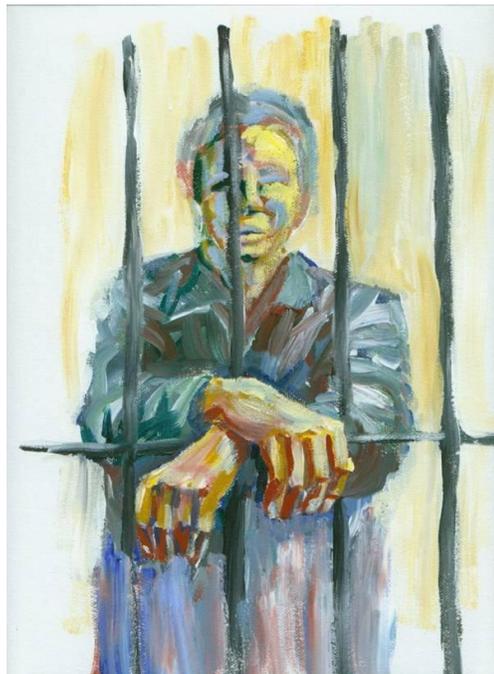
Reflection

LEADER Let us pause here to consider how we participate in the public killing of others. Jesus teaches us to be makers of peace, to be people of forgiveness, and to set the prisoners free. How do we fail to live up to that teaching? How do we behave like the killers of Jesus did when we ourselves kill, or support the killing, of others whether or not they are prisoners.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, be with us in these times of trouble. Teach us to forgive, to love, and to reach out to others in love, regardless the cost. Turn our hearts to you - for you are the guide of our lives and the light of the world. We ask this with great faith. Amen.



11. Jesus Promises Hope to the Good Thief

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises Hope to the Good Thief

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Luke 23:39-43)

LEADER Jesus, right there in the midst of all that hate and killing, you turned with a clear voice to the man being killed next to you, and you offered him love and forgiveness. How amazing! What a clear vision and mission you had in your heart. You gave up your life, but you never gave up your love! May we also be stirred to offer love in the midst of hate and to witness to your vision of forgiveness, seventy times seven times, even when it is most difficult.

Responsorial Psalm (25:1-5)

ALL To you O God, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
don't let my enemies gloat over me.

Don't let those who trust in you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are freely sinful!

Enlighten me so I may know your ways, O God;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth,

for you are the God who saves me.

You are the one in whom I hope forever!

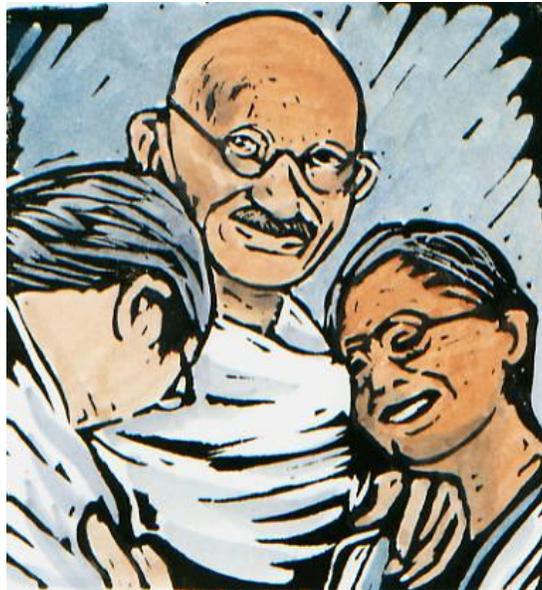
Reflection

LEADER There was a time in the Christian Church when all those who did not believe as we did were considered incapable of ever reaching Heaven. These outsiders were considered sinners and heretics - and sometimes they were hounded out of our communities or even killed in the name of Christ. Many of these people are Jews, but they might also be Muslims, Buddhists, Native peoples, or others. But in calling Vatican II, Pope John XXIII explicitly included all of these others in his embrace. He considered them precious and loved children of God. The council itself echoed Pope John's spirit and eventually wrote that all people of good faith, no matter what that faith is, are worthy of God's love and ours as well!

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, we believe in you and we love you. We embrace your presence in our hearts and lives. We accept with gratitude your power to heal and forgive us. We embrace your presence in our Church. Renew it constantly in the vision and energy of your Spirit. Amen.



12. Jesus is on the Cross with His Mother and Disciple Below

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Twelfth Station: Jesus is on the Cross
with His Mother and Disciple Below

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.
ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds
ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on John 19:25-27)

LEADER Jesus, we are given to one another for love and care - just as you loved and cared for your mother, Mary, even while dying yourself. In asking Mary and John to care for each other as mother and son, you were giving us an example: may we become each other's mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters ourselves. May we become the family of God! May we keep one another safe from harm and hold one another fast in the storms of life. And may we trust that your divine spirit gives us the power to do this.

Responsorial Psalm (121)

ALL I stand, looking up to the hills asking,
"From where will my help come?"
My help comes from the Divine One
who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot slip on the path,
the One who keeps you will never rest!
The One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
God is your keeper; God is your shade:
the sun shall not burn you by day,
nor the moon harm you by night.
God will keep you from all harm;

God keeps your life.
God accompanies you
whether you are going out or coming in,
now and forever!

Reflection

LEADER While it is true that Vatican II called us all to care for the men and women of the world who suffer and are in pain, we know it is impossible for most of us to leave our homes and do that in person. But there is another call that is closer to home, a call to take care of each other right here in the parish to which we belong. The Eucharist we share makes us the Body of Christ. It unites us. It does to us what Jesus did to Mary and John on the Cross: it places us in each other's care. Through us, God cares for our neighbors and friends in this parish. God indeed is our keeper, but we are God's hands and feet!

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, we believe in you and we love you. We embrace your presence in our hearts and lives. We accept with gratitude your power to heal and forgive us. We embrace your presence in our Church. Renew it constantly in the vision and energy of your Spirit. Amen.



13. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Matthew 27:45-50)

LEADER Jesus we believe in you and we love you. We have been moved by your powerful presence among us and we have entered into your death ourselves, seeking to find in you the source of our life and love. May we freely give of our own lives for one another. May we be filled with the power of your grace.

Responsorial Psalm (130)

ALL Out of the depths I cry to you, O God!
O God, hear me when I call!
Listen with compassion
to my plea for mercy!
If you, O God, remember our sins,
who could ever stand?
But you do indeed offer us forgiveness
and we honor you for that.
I trust in you, O God.
My soul trusts your word.
I have more trust in you to be present
than those who wait for dawn
believe it come each day.
O members of the church,
let us hope in God

more than those who watch for morning!
For with God there is steadfast love,
and with God there is great power to heal.
It is God who will redeem us
from all our sins.

Reflection

LEADER As he was preparing to die himself, Pope John XXIII told his closest friends not to worry about him because, he said, his bags were packed! Like Jesus, Pope John trusted that God would not abandon him. Let us pause on our way of the cross to allow the reality of Jesus to enter deeply into our own souls.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, we believe in you and we love you. We embrace your presence in our hearts and lives. We accept with gratitude your power to heal and forgive us. We embrace your presence in our Church. Renew it constantly in the vision and energy of your Spirit. Amen.



14. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Dialogue

LEADER Our hearts are troubled as we pray.

ALL You are our refuge, O God, and our hope.

LEADER May your Word be a light to our minds

ALL And may your Presence be the life of our souls.

Remembering the Word (Based on Matthew 27:57-61)

LEADER Jesus, our few moments here remembering your final days and nights are ending, as you are being placed in the tomb by friends who loved you and believed in you. This journey for us has taken us back to your betrayals, trials, and violent death. We don't pretend to understand all these mysteries, but we do now see the connection between your journey and our own. May we remain conscious of your presence among us now so that we are always aware of our own power to teach, heal, and minister in your name. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm (23)

ALL O God, you are my shepherd,
I lack nothing whatsoever!
You give me rest in green pastures.
You lead me beside still waters;
You restore my soul.
You guide me in ways that are right
for your name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life
and I shall dwell in your house forever!

Reflection

LEADER In calling Vatican II, Pope John knew the Spirit would be with the Church and that the Risen Christ would empower the Church to reform itself so dramatically that the world could be saved. Pope John dreamed of releasing to the world the saving and life-giving salvation of Jesus Christ. He hoped to make the world a more holy place, less filled with laws and regulations, and more filled with well-formed hearts and souls, eager to know God and to spread the word! Vatican II refocused us. Our real mission is not to develop effective and well-financed parishes. It's to release into the world the powerful Spirit of Jesus! Let us now go about our work in the Church and the world aware of the connection and indeed, determined to "spread the Word!"

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, we believe in you and we love you. We embrace your presence in our hearts and lives. We accept with gratitude your power to heal and forgive us. We embrace your presence in our Church. Renew it constantly in the vision and energy of your Spirit. Amen.



15. Jesus is Raised from the Dead

Announcement of the Station

LEADER The Fifteenth Station: Jesus is Raised from the Dead

Dialogue

LEADER We stand in the light of Faith

ALL And we praise you, Oh God, for your goodness

LEADER May our hearts be open to your Word

ALL And may our souls be moved by your Spirit

Remembering the Word (Based Luke 24:1-9)

LEADER On the first day of the week, the first members of the Church stood there in the tomb looking for the Jesus they'd known so well. Those women who went to the tomb that morning thought they'd find Jesus, the one they'd loved so tenderly and the one with whom they'd traveled the length and breadth of the Galilee and Jerusalem. They were looking for the fellow with whom they'd broken bread so often. But what was the message they heard? "*Why,*" they were asked, *do you seek the living here, among the dead?!*" May we in today's Church stop looking in that which has died to find what the Spirit is offering us today. May we seek the living in the fresh gifts of the Spirit, ever poured out on the Church.

Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1:46-55)

ALL My very being proclaims the wonder of God!

My very spirit is filled with joy in the Holy One.

You have seen me, and I am only a servant,

But from now on all people will call me blessed!

For you are mighty and have done amazing things;

O! Blessed are you!

You show mercy to those who are in awe of you

In every age of human history.

You have demonstrated your power

and confused the proud so they no longer boast.

You have removed the powerful from their thrones

and put in their places the lowly of the Earth.
Those who hunger are fed with abundance
and those who are rich have become poor.
In all of this you have been faithful to Israel, your people,
mindful of the promises you gave
to Abraham and Sarah and all their descendants.

Reflection

LEADER There was never anyone like Pope John in the entire history of the Church. Standing in the very place occupied by so many of his predecessors, he could see beyond them all. In speaking of his reasons for calling Vatican II, he once said, “We must shake off the imperial dust that has accumulated on the throne of St. Peter since Constantine” in the fourth century. In the spirit of Good Pope John, we, too, must stop looking among the dead for that which is living in the Church. We must embrace the work of the Spirit as it unfolds around us. We must seek life for the Church by looking forward, not backward.

A momentary, sacred pause or brief moment for faith sharing...

Communal Prayer

ALL Jesus, we believe in you and we love you. We embrace your presence in our hearts and lives. We accept with gratitude your power to heal and forgive us. We embrace your presence in our Church. Renew it constantly in the vision and energy of your Spirit. Amen.

