

## **Stations of the Seven Last Words of Jesus**

Trinity Church in Menlo Park

Palm Sunday

2019

Aaron Klinefelter & Patrick Kangrga

### **Intro:**

As you enter, remember that this is the story of Jesus. You'll hear about how he died but also remember how he lived – full of love and peace. He ate with those who felt left out, he healed those who were sick, and he taught how to follow the Way of Love.

### **Station 1:**

At the first station we find Jesus being nailed to the cross. His Way of Love was not welcomed by those in power, so they decided he needed to die. In those days, criminals were killed when didn't obey those in power. Jesus was put to death like a criminal.

Two others, both criminals, were led out to be killed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

Jesus said, "God, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He Saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

Pick up the soft, squishy heart at this station. Squeeze it in your hands.

Is there a person in your life who you need to forgive? Someone who hurt your feelings or betrayed you?

Try to allow your heart to be soft toward that person, just as Jesus forgave those who hurt him. Take the squishy heart with you as a reminder.

When you are ready, move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 2:**

At the second station we find Jesus on the cross hanging between two criminals.

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Look at the pictures of these beautiful places. Find a photo of what you think paradise would look like. Imagine what it would be like to live there. To enjoy that place with those you love and who love you.

When you are ready, move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 3:**

We're moving to the third station, Mary, Jesus' mom was watching her son die. She felt very sad. Jesus didn't want her to be alone after he died and Jesus didn't want one of his best friends to be alone either.

Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Pick up one of the wooden figures. Who has God given you to love? Who loves you? Give thanks for that person today. Take the wooden figure as a reminder.

When you are ready, move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 4:**

At the fourth station we find Jesus being mocked. Jesus must feel all alone.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this

King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!"  
Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Try putting on the mask so that you can get a sense of the darkness of this moment for Jesus. Is there a time you felt all alone? Is there a time that you felt like people were mocking or making fun of you? Have you ever felt like God had abandoned you?

When you are ready, move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 5:**

At the fifth station Jesus knew that he was about to die. Everything that he had come to do was done. His body was beginning to fail. He felt very thirsty.

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty."

Take a drink of the water from one of the glasses. Is there anything you are thirsty for? Something, more than just water, that you long to have in your life?

When you are ready, move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 6:**

At the sixth station the people standing near Jesus as he was dying heard that he was thirsty so they tried to offer him something to ease his pain and suffering.

A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Pick up a cross and hold it in your hands. Take the cross with you as a reminder of this experience.

When you are ready move on to the next station, press pause if you need more time.

### **Station 7:**

We've arrived at the final, seventh station.

By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

Is there anything that you want to give to God? Anything that has brought you sadness or sorrow that you want God to hold? Is there something that feels too big or too heavy that you want God to help you hold?

Write or draw that thing on one of the paper hands. When you are ready, place the hand in the box. No one will see what you put on the hand. We will burn all of them at the Easter Vigil on Saturday.

You've reached the end of these stations, but your journey with Jesus continues beyond this place. Hear this prayer from today's liturgy as you conclude your time here:

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*