



Stations in the Street *and Meditations*

Stations in the Street created by artist Scott Erickson.

You are invited to experience

The Stations of the Cross that retrace

Jesus' final steps of Holy Week.

This is your guided meditations for each station.

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katyfirst.org

Stations in the Street / Artist Statement

The Stations of the Cross began as a remembrance that pilgrims had when they were retracing Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem up to the hill where He was crucified. Wanting to share that practice and experience with people who couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, they created local stations of meditation that became in itself a tradition. You can find this tradition on the inside of many churches still today.

This journey to the cross is not only a meditation of Jesus accomplishing what He came to do - the redemption of humanity through His own willful sacrifice - but it's also a contemplation of Jesus silently participating in some of the worst aspects of being human. We see Him being tempted to give up. Being betrayed by a friend. Being convicted in an unjust political system. Physical pain. Mockery. Public humiliation. Broken family relationships. And one of our greatest fears... having to die. These are all aspects of human life that He was not insulated from. In fact on the cross He quotes King David saying "My God My God, Why have you forsaken me?"... as if to say "Why is it like this?" He was one who was not separate from our own suffering.

Many of us feel the weight of anxiety and fear as we journey through the current world. We are told many narratives of how it is and what is to come. During this season of Lent, we as a community look to the life and teachings of Jesus. We think that One who was in the midst of such political and empirical turmoil, who spoke the words of "Be not afraid"... and "Come to me all you are weary and carrying a heavy load, for I will give you rest"... is someone who can illuminate our desperate viewpoint.

These stations are a cross-section of elements, ideas, and objects from Jesus' journey to the cross. As you work through these stations, may you see that we are not troubled guests in this world... that we are not forsaken... and that the good news of this season was expressed best by Jesus when He said... "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."





I JESUS IS TEMPTED

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.” — Matthew 26:36-46



At Gethsemane, Jesus is compelled to desperate prayer.
Consider Jesus’ complete honesty in prayer. It is here that he calls together
his friends in his most desperate time of prayer.

What drives you to such a desperate time of prayer?

Where are you feeling most pressed and need help through prayer?



II. JESUS IS BETRAYED

“Friend, do what you came here to do.” — Matthew 26:50

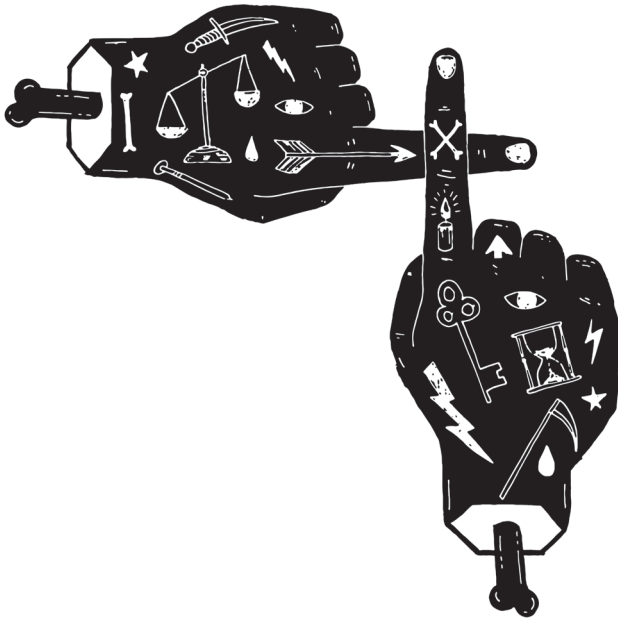
“The son of man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.
They will kill him and after three days he will rise.” — Mark 9:31

Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on he was looking for an opportunity to turn him in. — Matthew 26:14-16



The son of God was betrayed by a friend.

The son of God was betrayed by his creation.



III. JESUS IS CONDEMNED

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but caesar,”
the chief priests answered. —John 19:15

“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.
Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”
— John 19:11

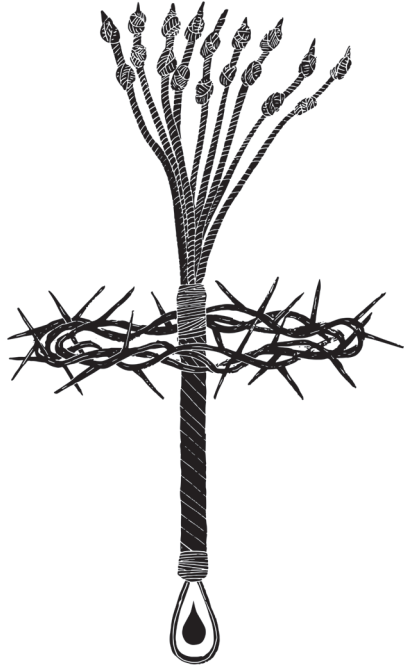
Day after day I was with you in the temple, but you didn’t arrest me.
But this is your time, when darkness rules.” — Luke 22:53



Jesus submits quietly and peacefully.

Jesus is condemned by religious leaders.

What was their fear?



IV. JESUS IS MOCKED

“But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” — John 18:23

They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, — Matthew 27:28

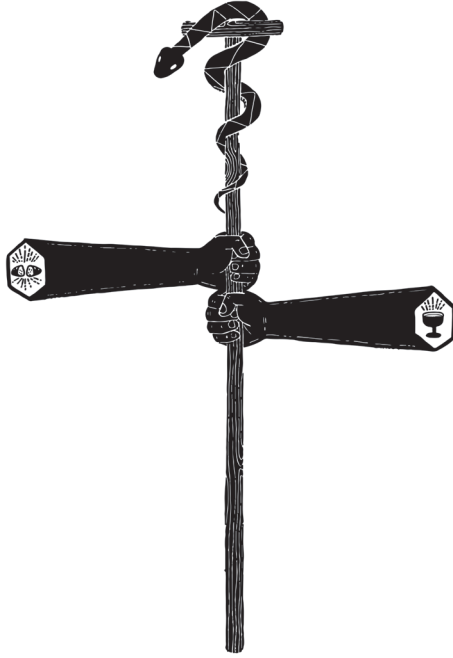
“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Human One will be handed over to the chief priests and legal experts. They will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles to be ridiculed, tortured, and crucified. But he will be raised on the third day.” — Matthew 20:18-19



What brings on our mockery?

These soldiers brutalize Jesus. Possibly their common response to Jewish prisoners.

Imagine the Son of God being brutalized by men.



V. JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”
— John 3:14-15



The cross was a public murder device for criminals.

This is how Jesus was killed.

Imagine carrying the wood of the cross... up the hill to your eventual slow and public death.



VI. JESUS FALLS

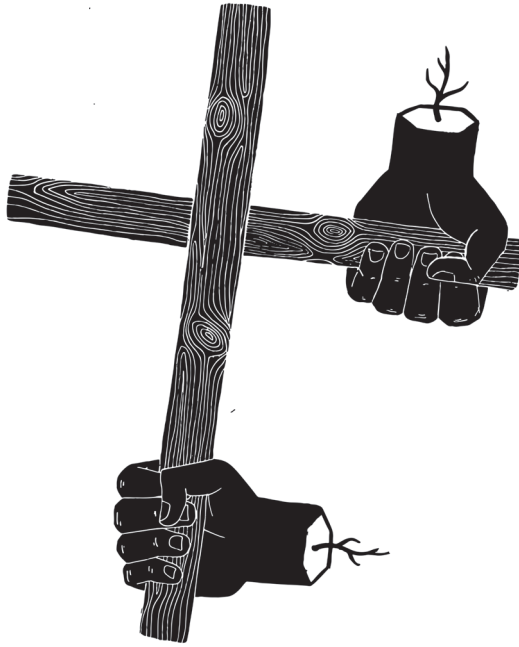
“Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” — John 12:24



This station, although not found in scripture, is traditionally in three stations. It symbolizes his humanity and his ever decreasing strength as he moves towards his public death.

Imagine Jesus experiencing weakness and distress in a public setting with no where to hide.

Imagine the exhaustion of the last 24 hours.



VII. SIMON CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. — Luke 23:26

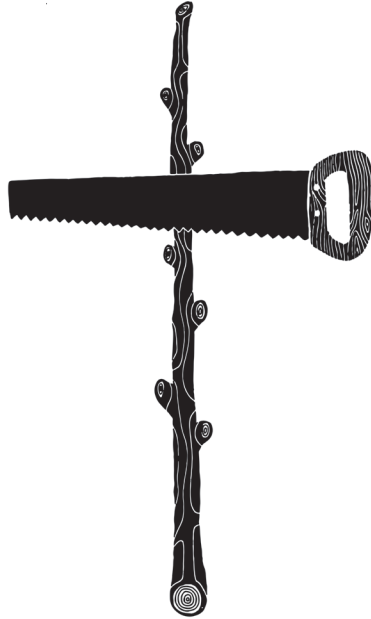
Then Jesus said to his disciples, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. — Matthew 16:24



Imagine being pulled from the crowd and carrying this man's device of death.

What is it like to walk alongside Jesus in this?

What does it mean that even Jesus needed help carrying his cross?



VIII. JESUS IS STRIPPED

“For if men do these things when the tree is green,
what will happen when it is dry?” — Luke 23:31

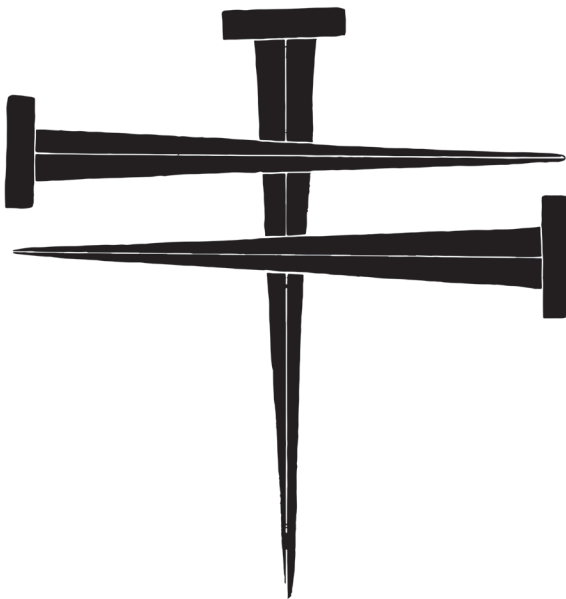
“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”
And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. — Luke 23:34



Romans crucified criminals naked.

Reflect on the shame of nakedness in the Garden of Eden.

And the shame of nakedness in this moment.



IX. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man
then you will know that I am the one I claim to be...” — John 8:28

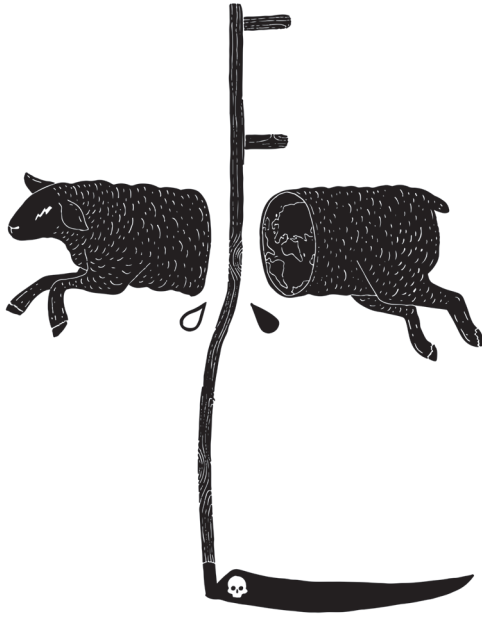
“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all mankind to myself.” — John 12:32

“My God My God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46



The long physical pain of crucifixion was excruciating.

In fact, the word excruciating is derived from crucifixion.



X. JESUS DIES

He was oppressed and tormented, but didn't open his mouth.
Like a lamb being brought to slaughter, like a ewe silent before her shearers,
he didn't open his mouth. — Isaiah 53:7

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”
— John 15:13

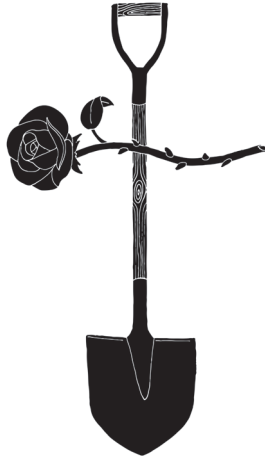
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” — Luke 23:46



Jesus died. He died. Our greatest fear is death.

And He was not insulated from that fear.

His physical body stopped working. His friends watched Him die.



XI. JESUS IS BURIED

“When she poured this perfume on my body,
she did it to prepare me for burial.” — Matthew 26:12

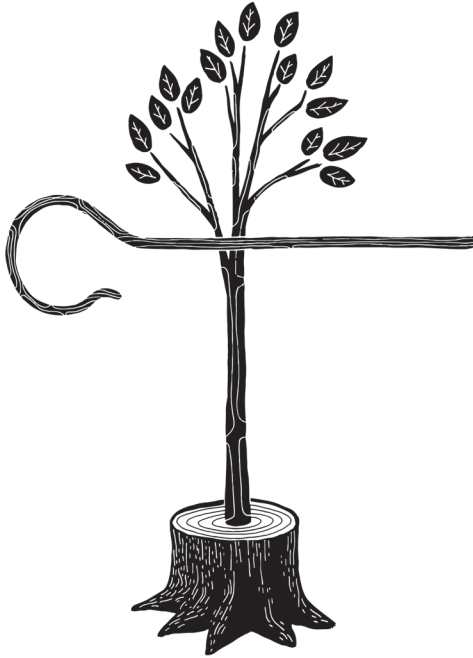
Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council. He was a good and righteous man. He hadn't agreed with the plan and actions of the council. He was from the Jewish city of Arimathea and eagerly anticipated God's kingdom. This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Taking it down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb carved out of the rock, in which no one had ever been buried. It was the Preparation Day for the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was quickly approaching. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid in it, then they went away and prepared fragrant spices and perfumed oils. They rested on the Sabbath, in keeping with the commandment. — Luke 23:50-56



His friends buried Him.

Have you ever buried a loved one?

Imagine doing that with the one you believed was going to change the world and bring ultimate justice and healing.



XII. JESUS RISES

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for his sheep.”
— John 10:11

“Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the son of man has been raised
from the dead.” — Matthew 17:9

He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed.
He did this so that we might live in righteousness,
having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed.
Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd
and guardian of your lives. — 1 Peter 2:24-25



Consider the other side of our greatest fear.

Jesus shows us that there is something beyond death.



Worship In-Person & Online

www.katyfirst.org

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28, Sanctuary 11AM (In-Person & Online)

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7PM (Online)

Good Friday, April 2, 7PM (In-Person & Online)

Easter Sunday, April 4

Confluence 9AM, Online

Sanctuary 10AM, Online

Drive-in In-Person Service at 11AM



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