



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday

7 pm • April 18, 2025

LOVE GOD. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. CHANGE THE WORLD.

There are two stories of creation in the book of Genesis. In the first, God creates the earth and all the creatures who inhabit the earth, THEN God creates a human, translated from the Hebrew as “earth creature.” In the second account, after God has created the light, water, and earth, God creates the “earth creature,” THEN creates the animals as companions for this creature. Both accounts are clear: humankind and the earth are meant to be in harmony with one another and in harmony with the Creator. However, what we observe is that just as Christ suffered and arose, the earth is suffering and needs to be restored with God’s help to the original wholeness of creation.

At Church of the Nativity we believe that our faith in Jesus, our reverence for the earth, and our service to others are deeply woven together in our life of faith. We seek a connection to God through our connections with one another, through caring for the natural world, and through an examination of our interior life. All these things are a form of prayer.

This brief service, inspired by Jesus’ final moments on the Via Dolorosa, seeks to connect Jesus’ walk with our own walk as people of faith today. We seek to care for a broken world, to heal God’s creation, and to bring awareness and repentance to those who do not yet understand the depth of damage done to God’s creation, but who still seek to love God and draw closer to Christ.

Join us in the Walk

OPENING HYMN

LEVAS II 70. I want Jesus to walk with me

Carl Haywood

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

OPENING DEVOTION

Officiant In the Name of the God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **Amen.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

**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
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

V. We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ:

R. **In whom is our salvation, our life and resurrection.**

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 FIRST STATION: JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

Officiant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."...He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

As we contemplate God's creation, we see before us light and dark. Earth and water. The sun, mountains, and stars. Just like prayer, creation begins below the surface. The sun rises from below the horizon. Seeds germinate beneath the surface. The first signs of life were born out of the depths of the seas. Just as God spoke the world into existence, so too can our prayers speak new things into existence.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, we give thanks for the gift of creation. We are reminded that we have not always been good stewards of this fragile earth, but we gather here to make a better life, to commit ourselves to the care of your creation, the protection of your streams and waterways, the purification of your air, and the growth of your forests and trees. We join our prayers to yours, o Christ, **Amen.**

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

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

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

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

Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, “the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely.” He came and immediately went over to him and said, “Rabbi.” And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.

When you talk to young people about the climate crisis, betrayal is a word you frequently hear. This is the world you are leaving behind? As we contemplate the shifting horizon in front of us, we note the disappearing light, the presence of rain and storms, and above all the dark. Yet, even in this dark moment we are reminded of the gift of water. May the tears today turn into verdant rivers and streams tomorrow.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 Christ, to do his work and to live out his vision for all of your creation. **Amen.**

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

THE THIRD STATION: PETER DENIES JESUS

Officiant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

At times it feels like the whole world is tilted on its axis. Note the shifting horizon in front of us. Up is left and down is right. Nothing makes sense. Yet the denials continue to ring out. Climate change isn't real. Drill Baby Drill. Build Build Build. When it feels like nothing makes sense we can look to the light of Christ as our North Star and look to God for our direction and our hope.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE FOURTH 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.**

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.

How do you feel when no one listens to you? When no one believes you? When nothing you can say can change anyone's mind? We feel condemned.

Condemned to rising temperatures and rising seas. Condemned to floods and famines, earthquakes and fires. When we feel hopeless in our condemnation we can remember Christ's own condemnation at Gabbatha.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 Holy God,

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

THE FIFTH STATION: JESUS IS CROWNED

Officiant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

John 19:1-5:

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, ‘Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.’ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, ‘Here is the man!’”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne. Though Pilate sought to mock Jesus with a crown of thorns, it has become a symbol of defiance and of hope. We are reminded that there is still sanctity in Christ’s story, and still holiness in our story. As the drops of Christ’s blood became living water, so we have become agents of Christ, distributors of the water of life.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE SIXTH 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.**

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.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Consider the delicate nature of this painting. The lightness of the indentation in the ground, the small refractions in light caused by the weight of Christ’s cross. This burden we share is heavy, but if we carry it together it is much easier to bear the weight. Let us bear these burdens together.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE SEVENTH 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.**

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."

The storm clouds are gathering. In Jesus time and in our time. The work appears harder. The barriers bigger. Yet even stripped of everything Christ stands stalwart, shining, a beacon of hope. May we look to Christ in the midst of the storms in our lives as our anchor and as our hope.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE EIGHTH 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.**

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."

Have you ever seen an eclipse? Even if you have not found yourself in 'the totality' you may have had the experience of suddenly everything going dark, of shadows lengthening suddenly, of unnatural darkness in the middle of the day, and yet even then it is still too bright to stare directly at the sun. Even in our dark moments Christ continues to shine. As we struggle with the worry and concern of this present life, let us not forget to look for Christ for our light and our hope.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE NINTH STATION: THE REPENTANT THIEF

Officiant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him... One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

When we find ourselves in times of trouble, we often find unlikely allies. Be they criminals on the cross, former opponents, or strangers who become friends... we should always be on the lookout for visions, new worlds, and new opportunities for relationship. Just as the criminal saw God in the face of Jesus, so to should we seek the face of Jesus in the stranger amongst us.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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

THE TENTH 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.**

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.

Sunset. The end of the day. But not the end of the story. In this story Jesus passes on his work to his mother and to his friend. Who do we entrust our work to when we are done? Who do we allow to continue to tell our story? Will we have the humility, to like Christ, step back and let others step up to lead?

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 Holy God,

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

THE ELEVENTH 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.**

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.

“O dark dark dark. They all go into the dark,
The vacant interstellar spaces, the
vacant into the vacant...and we all go with them,
into the silent funeral”

—T.S. Eliot, *East Coker*

Christ’s death may be the hardest reality for any of us to confront. How could this happen? How could God... die? And yet three days later he was resurrected, and so to were we. Let us ponder the dark for a moment, if only to remind ourselves that in our own darkest moments there is still the possibility of resurrection.

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 forever. **Amen.**

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

THE TWELFTH 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.**

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.

What do you see in this empty tomb? What stirs in you as you contemplate the stone pulled back. The bare surface. The sun peaking over the horizon? The climate crisis is but one of many crises we will face in our lifetime. What do we bring to these moments? The anger of the crowds? Or the compassion of Joseph? The denial of Peter? Or the faithfulness of the beloved disciple? And where will you be when Sabbath ends and the tomb is open?

Officiant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

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 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.**

Silence is kept. Reflections may be offered at this time.

Officiant Let us pray.

O 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 forever. 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.**



QUICK LINKS

Scan this QR code to fill out
a welcome card, give online,
and more.

We thank the following people for their service today:

OFFICIANT The Rev. Grey Maggiano

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338



nativityonline.org



[@nativityonline](#)

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Grey Maggiano	Rector
The Rev. Ryan Parker	Priest Associate
Jeremy Clos	Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Josh Anderson	Lay Associate for Communications and Administration
Eva Warren	Nursery Attendant
Robert Krahel	Sexton