

CCC Stations of the Cross 2021

**Opening Prayer** *read by Hannah:*

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
take us along that holy way  
you once took to your death.  
Take our minds,  
our memories,  
and our reluctant hearts,  
and let us see what once you did  
for love of us and all the world.  
And as we call to mind the suffering  
in our world today,  
may your loving,  
understanding and  
responsive heart expand our own hearts  
so that we too may be  
instruments of healing and love. Amen.*

**Station I – read by Simon  
Jesus is Condemned to Death**

**Scripture:** *“Pilate brought Jesus outside and said to the people, “Look at your king! At this they shouted, “Away with him! Crucify him!” Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.*

**Reflection:** *Jesus is like so many other people who have ever been, mocked and unjustly punished. Jesus knows what it feels like, and yet he has faith that God is with him. We think about him in this moment.*

**Connection:** *Here at Station 1 we remember the faithful around the world who are condemned, imprisoned and abused because of what they believe. We dedicate ourselves in prayer and service to honor and respect those of other faiths and traditions.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station II – read by Amelia**

#### **Jesus Carries His Cross**

**Scripture:** *Jesus was led away, and carrying the cross by himself, went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, Golgotha.*

**Reflection:** *Jesus is made to carry the cross on which he will die. We wonder what that felt like. Heavy, and uncomfortable. We imagine him just putting one foot in front of the other.*

**Connection:** *At Station 2 we remember the working poor in our country who carry a greater and greater burden of work for less and less pay while those at the top reap ever more wealth. We remember the sweatshops across the globe where workers are abused; we pledge to support the companies that uphold human dignity and strive to pay a livable wage.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station III – read by Skylar**

#### **Jesus Falls for the First Time**

**Scripture:** *“Jesus emptied himself, and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He humbled himself, to death on a Cross.*

**Reflection:** *The weight is unbearable. Jesus falls under it. We imagine he doesn’t feel like he can keep going, and yet he is pulled up and made to continue.*

**Connection:** *We bring to mind those many people around the world who are refugees from their homeland, made to walk too far to a land too distant. We pray for those who are weary and fall but must go on to get out of the way of wars’ fury. We recognize our opportunities to welcome refugees who are making a home among us here in Vermont.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station IV – read by Addison**

#### **Jesus Meets His Mother**

**Scripture:** *Simeon said to Mary his mother: "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed. And you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts will be laid bare."*

**Reflection:** *All his life, Jesus's mother had been a quiet but constant presence supporting him. In this painful time, love and faith bind them together.*

**Connection:** *We bring to mind mothers across the world who care for children, courageously and tirelessly working for their families, schools and institutions seeking the welfare of all. We raise also the importance of respecting and working for women's reproductive rights.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**Station V – read by Charlie**  
**Simon Helps Carry the Cross**

**Scripture:** *"A man named Simon of Cyrene, was coming in from the fields, and they pressed him into service to carry the Cross."*

**Reflection:** *Jesus even experiences our struggle to receive help. He is made to experience the poverty of not being able to carry his burden alone. He enters into the experience of all who must depend upon others to survive. He is deprived of the satisfaction of carrying this burden on his own.*

**Connection:** *We remember our immigrant brothers and sisters who are deemed "illegal" but who give so much of themselves so that we have food to eat. We pray for the Latino men and women on local Vermont dairy farms who must stay hidden among us for fear of being deported and for those who even now at this hour cross the desert and brave a hostile border in search of a better life. We pray especially for the families separated from each other, for the parents in desperation and the children who live in fear.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**Station VI – read by Lila**  
**Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

**Scripture:** *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. And I promise that whoever gives a cup of cold water will not want for a reward."*

**Reflection:** *Jesus encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the spit and blood from his face. On her veil, she discovers the image of his face - his gift to her.*

**Connection:** *We remember all who have been turned away or abused, particularly by the church. Especially we remember the injustices endured by our LGBTQ friends and vow to be deliberate in our support of them. We pledge to work consistently to awaken to our privilege, and we mourn the systemic racism that exists in our state and nation.*

*A moment of silence*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**Station VII – read by Jesse**  
**Jesus Falls the Second Time**

**Scripture:** *“But I am a worm and no man; the scorn of all, despised by the people. All who see me scoff at me.*

**Reflection:** *Even with help, Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground. “Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.” He feels the hard earth beneath him.*

**Connection:** *We pray for the earth, blessed by Jesus’ tears and sweat. We recognize our connection to the earth, and our responsibility to take actions to slow global warming.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**Station VIII – read by Avery**  
**Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

**Scripture:** *“A great crowd of people followed him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over him.”*

**Reflection:** *The women of Jerusalem, and their children, come out to comfort and thank him. They had seen his compassion and welcomed his words of healing and freedom. He had broken all kinds of social and religious conventions to connect with them. Now they are here to support him. He feels their grief. He suffers, knowing he can’t remain to help them more in this life. He knows the mystery of facing the separation of death.*

**Connection:** *We pray for parents of children who suffer from sickness, war, or work too soon, forced to leave their childhoods behind. We grieve for the children’s loss of innocence.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**Station IX – read by Nora**  
**Jesus Falls the Third Time**

**Scripture:** *I am like water poured out; all my bones are racked. You have brought me down to the dust of death.*

**Reflection:** *Jesus's executioners look at him as a broken man, pathetic yet paying a price he deserves. They help him up so he can make it up the hill of crucifixion.*

**Connection:** *We remember those soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty to their country, young people who have sacrificed their lives. May their examples inspire our leaders to work harder for a world where the tragedy of war is no more.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station X – read by Henry**

#### **Jesus is Stripped**

**Scripture:** *“They stripped off his clothes and began to mock him saying: ‘All hail, king of the Jews!’”*

**Reflection:** *Part of the indignity is to be crucified naked. Jesus is completely stripped of any pride. He is vulnerable and defenseless. As they stare at him, his eyes turn to heaven.*

**Connection:** *We reflect on all of the people who have been vulnerable and defenseless in the face of COVID 19. Some have fallen ill, some have been sick with worry or loneliness or isolation. Some have lost jobs, childcare, homes, family and friends.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station XI – read by Henry**

#### **Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**

**Scripture:** *“After carrying his Cross, Jesus came to the Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). There they crucified him and two others with him.*

**Reflection:** *We can only imagine the nails and the pain. We recognize that Jesus's experience was not unique – on either side of him was someone else in the same condition.*

**Connection:** *We remember those in our country who are the victims of gun violence. We stand with those who press our elected officials to enact waiting period laws as we mourn the tragically accelerating incidents of suicide in our state.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

### **Station XII – read by Cecilia**

### **Jesus Dies On the Cross**

**Scripture:** “Jesus said, ‘I thirst!’ and they gave him wine. ‘It is finished!’ he cried, and gave up his spirit.”

**Reflection:** *Between two criminals, a mocking title above his head, with only Mary and John and Mary Magdalene to support him, Jesus surrenders his last breath: “Into your hands I commend my spirit.”*

**Connection:** *We remember the dying and the dead.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

### **Station XIII – read by Abby**

#### **Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross**

**Scripture:** “When the soldiers came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers thrust a lance in his side, and blood and water flowed out.”

**Reflection:** *Jesus’s lifeless body lies in his mother’s arms. He has truly died. A profound sacrifice complete.*

**Connection:** *We remember those in grief who have lost loved ones this year. We pray for families in our community that are grieving.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

### **Station XIV – read by Hannah**

#### **Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

**Scripture:** “Joseph of Arimethea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus, and wrapped it in perfumed oils. Then he buried Jesus in a tomb close at hand.

**Reflection:** *They take the body of Jesus to its resting place. The huge stone over the tomb is the final sign of the permanence of death. In this final act of surrender, who would have imagined this tomb would soon be empty or that Jesus would show himself alive to his disciples, or that they would recognize him in the breaking of bread? But for now there is only silence and an end.*

**Connection:** *We remember all those for whom hope is gone for whatever reason, who feel alone and lost in their struggles and trials, who feel the door is shut, the tomb is sealed, the way is lost.*

*A moment of silence.*

**Prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

**Lord’s Prayer – read by Cecilia, Amelia and Nora**

**Our (Mother) Father (Creator),  
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 and bread  
and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for Thine is the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory  
forever, Amen.**

*"The Stations of the Cross" written by Passionist Missionaries of Union City  
"Connection" written by Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge with adaptations by Hadley Bunting*