

Saint Francis of Assisi Cathedral (1575) Old Havana, Cuba. Photo by Nancy Disher

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross

Inspired
by
Matthew 25

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Good Friday

For centuries, Pilgrims to Jerusalem paused to pray the “ Stations of the Cross,” remembering Jesus last day as he walked toward his cross.

When Jesus walked this life, he invited us to know that when we feed the hungry, care for the sick, visit those who are in prison, and give clothes to those in need, we are doing it for him. “Whenever you do this for the least of these,” Jesus said, “You do it for me.”

We invite you to walk these “Stations of the Cross,” photos of those who have suffered disasters, violence and poverty, mindful that Jesus died for you, for me, and for the least of these. Join us as we walk with Jesus who lived for us, and died for us.

Reverend Jeanie Shaw



In the aftermath of the destruction of Hurricane Yolanda in Tacloban, Philippines. A mission trip sponsored by Hayward Presbyterian Church. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane



Photo of a flooded family home, the day before it was demolished.
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip Beaumont, Texas.
Photo by Jeanie Shaw

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 took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.” 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.” When he returned to his disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

(Matthew 26: 36-41)

The Second Station: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas and Arrested



One of the hundreds of signs sent from the people of Joplin, Missouri to the Survivors of the flooding in Minot, North Dakota.
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip.
Photo by Jeanie Shaw

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.

(Mark 14: 43-46)

The Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin



Mother Emanuel AME church, the site of the shooting and murder of nine church members during a bible study. Photo taken during a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip to the flooding in Charleston, South Carolina. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth."

(Luke 22: 66-71)



The Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by St. Peter



Photo in a flooded home in Anasco, Puerto Rico. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about!” As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man!” A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.” At that he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken:
“Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.”
He went out and began to weep bitterly.

(Matthew 26: 69-75)

The Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pontius Pilate



Survivors of Hurricane Matthew with major damages to their home. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip Johns Island, South Carolina. Photo by Nancy Disher

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again, Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas, and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

(Mark 15: 1-5, 15)

The Sixth Station of the Cross: Jesus is Scourged at the Pillar and Crowned with Thorns

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly.

(John 19: 1-3)



COVID-19 Vaccination Line in Folsom, California. Photo by Nancy Disher

The Seventh Station of the Cross: Jesus Bears the Cross



Cooking on a wood stove in a Nicaraguan village without running water.
Village supported by CEPAD, Presbyterian International Partner.
Photo by Nancy Disher

When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” ... They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

(John 19: 6, 15-17)

The Eighth Station of The Cross: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross



Poverty and Hunger in Sacramento, CA. Food distribution by Eventide Community. Photo by Nancy Disher

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

(Mark 15: 21)

The Ninth Station of The Cross: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

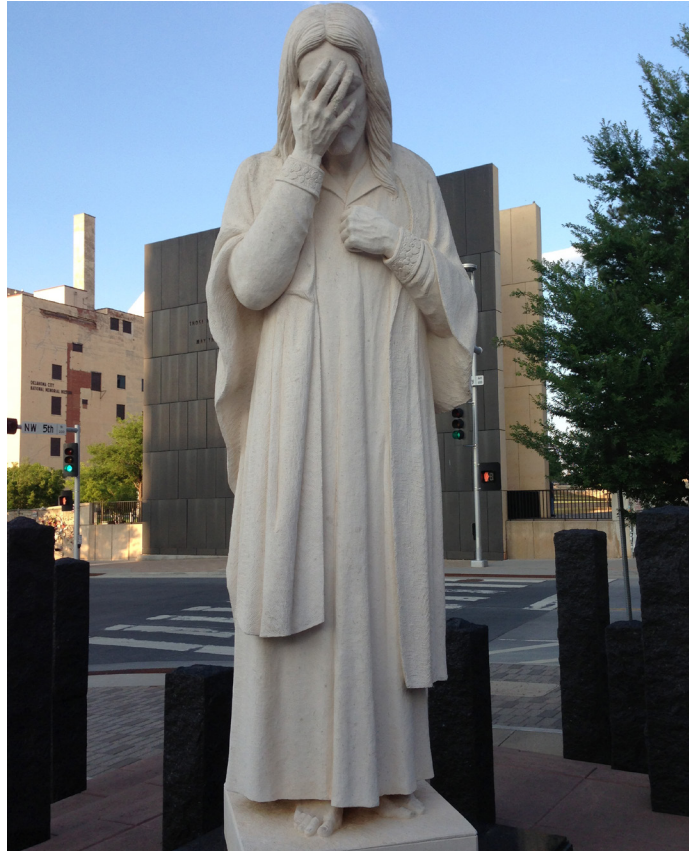
A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ At that time, people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

(Luke 23: 27-31)



A statue of Mary found in the floods following Hurricane Harvey's destruction in Beaumont, Texas. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified



Statue of Jesus at the site of the Oklahoma bombing. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.”]

(Luke 23: 33-34)

The Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.” The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

(Luke 23: 39-43)



The Peoples memorial to George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. Photo by Paul Maslin

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Beloved Disciple



LA Artist, Shane Grammer, painted portraits of those killed in the Paradise Fire on the homes of the deceased. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

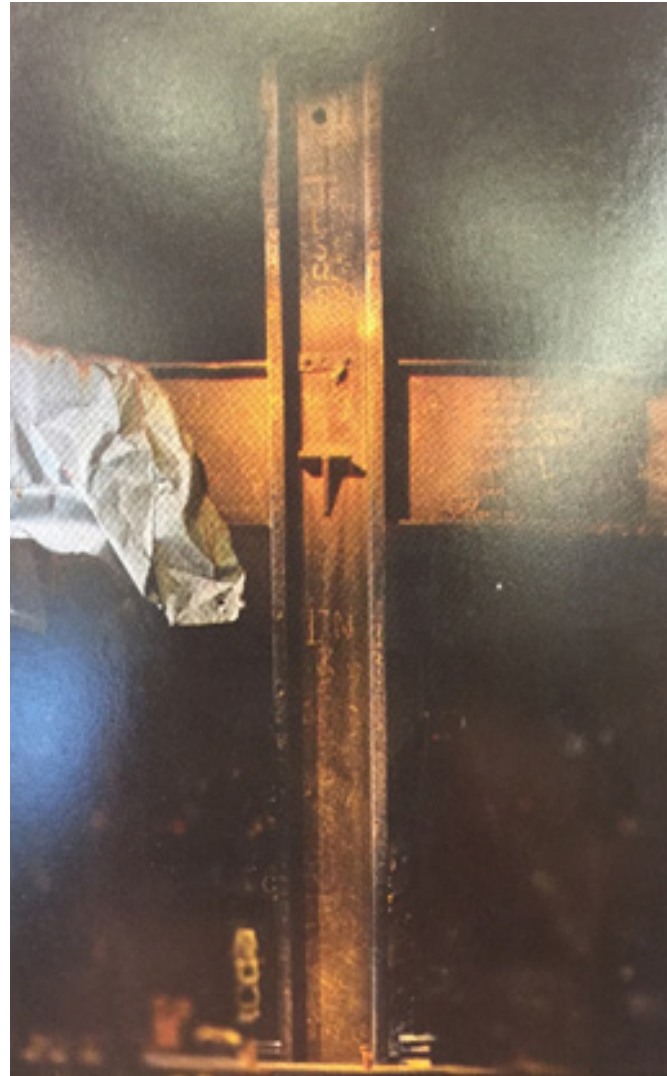
Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

(John 19: 25-27)

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this, he breathed his last.

(Luke 23: 44-46)



The cross found by the steel workers following 9/11 in the ruins of the Twin Towers. The cross now stands in the 9/11 museum. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

(Matthew 27: 57-60)



The memorial to those who died in the Oklahoma Bombing. Photo by Jeanie Shaw

“It is Finished.” - Jesus

(John 19:30)

Scriptures taken from New American Bible (Revised Edition)
