

Lenten At-Home Experience

Again and Again

*we are healed
we are brought into community
the truth sets us free
God engages with us
calls us forward
walks a road of redemption and recovery*

Lent includes the 40 days in which we step into the life of Jesus with the intention of drawing so close to him again and again that we feel the swish of his robe and the dust from which he walks within the depths of our being. The journey begins as we gather together on Ash Wednesday to once again be reminded that God comes to us again and again in our brokenness to envelop us into God's very presence. In the weeks leading into the glorious triumph of Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem and the stunning silence of his death upon the cross we will be reminded that God comes to heal us, bring us into community, set us free, engage with us, call us forward and chooses to walk a road of redemption again and again on our behalf.

Join us as we step into the promise of Again and Again this season.

At-Home Lenten Liturgy and Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17th 6:30pm Zoom and In-person in Fellowship Hall
All supplies in At-Home Lenten Bag

Lenten Bible Study Beginning February 24th

Wednesdays 6:00pm Zoom
A Cross in the Heart of God: Reflections on the death of Jesus
by Samuel Wells (please order your own copy of the book)

Worship Liturgy

Call to Worship
Affirmation of Faith

Weekly Worship Liturgy

February 21 st	Again and Again We Are Healed
February 28 th	Again and Again We are Brought into Community
March 7 th	Again and Again the Truth Sets us Free
March 14 th	Again and Again God Engages with us
March 21 st	Again and Again God calls us forward
March 28 th	Palm Sunday....Again and Again God walks the Road for us Palm Branch Coloring Sheet, to be used in worship
April 4 th	Easter Sunday...Again and Again God Redeems Us Rock from At-Home Lenten Bag to be used in worship

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Zoom
Again and Again we are anointed
Oil from At-Home Lenten Bag to be used in worship

Good Friday Stations of The Cross at Home included after Weekly Liturgy

Again and Again Devotional Cards

Found in your At-Home Lenten Supplies
Each day choose a card at random.
Spend 2-3 minutes concentrating on that specific word
As you walk through the day use the word and prayer as connection that God is with us again
and again.

At-Home Lenten Supplies included for Special Services

For Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Morning you will need the following supplies from your At-Home Lenten Bag

Ash Wednesday Service Supplies

- Ampersand Symbol
- Clay Pot
- Broken glass
- Ziplock back of dirt
- Ashes
- Packet of Seeds
- A damp cloth/paper towel
- Water to pour into pot {not included}

Palm Sunday Supplies

- Palm Branch Coloring Sheet included in print material
- Craft Stick
- Glue or tape {not included}

Maundy Thursday

- Anointing Oil

Easter Morning

- Rock

Ash Wednesday Service

Gathering

Tonight as we join together through zoom and in-person we invite you to remain silent.

Opening Prayer

Again and again...

suffering and brokenness finds us
doubt fills our minds
cries of lament come pouring out like the rush of a waterfall
we mess up, we fail ourselves and we fail you.

Again and again...

God choose us
God comes to bind our broken hearts
God come to bestow aa crown of beauty upon us instead of a heap of ashes
God comes to envelope us in a garment of praise and release us from a spirit of despair.

Again and again..

God offers us a sacred refrain
I choose you.
I love you.

Again and again.

Touch Point

We invite you to take the ampersand sign found on the card stock.

If you are with us here in the Fellowship Hall all materials are before you on the table.

In *silence* we invite you to do the following:

- Using your finger trace the ampersand in slow, purposeful movements.
- While continuing to trace the ampersand , close your eyes and reflect on the ways that God has to come you again and again.
- When you feel ready, open your eyes and breathe in the sacred refrain as if God were speaking directly to you: “Again and again, I choose you,”

Opening Communal Response

Leader: The cycles of faith, the repetitive patterns both trap us and ground us.

All: Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer to you.

Leader: Another step deeper
Another step further

**All: Again and again, you choose us.
Again and again, you choose me.**

Leader: Show us the next step.
We are here.
You are here.

**All: Again and again, you love us.
Again and again, you love me.**

Music

Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Reader 1: Our life is full of brokenness-

broken relationships,

broken promises,

broken expectations.

How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning to again and again to God’s faithful presence in our lives. Henri Nouwen

Reader 2:

What if the deeper you know your own brokenness the deeper you can experience your own belovedness? Anne Voskamap

Touch Point: Facing our brokenness

Glass is comprised of small granules of sand that are heated and melted under immense pressure to create a distinct object of beauty. Under repetitive force and pressure the glass can shatter into a million little pieces distorting the refractions of light.

In *silence* we invite you to do the following:

- Hold a piece of glass within your hand, reflect on the places where you feel broken. Broken from promises that have not been kept, expectations that have been fraught with disappointment. relationships that have been toxic.
- Reflect on the ways that you have broken others through the words you have spoken that have been harmful, the times you have shared gossip, the ways you left your promise to someone unfilled and failed to follow through on responsibilities that were entrusted into your care.

When you are ready place the piece of glass at bottom of your clay pot.

Congregational Response:

All: Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer to you.

Again and again, you choose us.

Again and again, you choose me.

Again and again, you love us.

Again and again, you love me.

Music

Scripture:

Reader 1 Matthew 13: 3-7

³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

Reader 2 John 15: 4-6

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Touch point: Feeling cut off

Dirt moors a seed into the depths of its structure so that it might grow even against all odds. It holds minerals and nutrients, giving the seed the stability to produce a healthy harvest. When dirt lingers without water, seeds lose their stability, becoming easily uprooted and taken away by the wind or cease to bear fruit.

In *silence* we invite you to do the following:

- Take a handful of dirt, let it sit in your hand.
- Reflect on the ways that you no longer feel moored to God’s nutrients of health and life.
- Reflect on the areas in your soul that feel dry or cut off from God’s presence.

When you are ready fill your clay pot $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with dirt from your packet.

Congregational Response:

All: Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer to you.

Again and again, you choose us.

Again and again, you choose me.

Again and again, you love us.

Again and again, you love me.

Music

Scripture

Adapted from Isaiah 58:1-12

Again and again we must lose the bonds of injustice
undo the thongs of the yoke
choose to let the oppressed go free

Again and again we must share the bread with the hungry
bring the homeless into our homes
see the naked and cover them

Reader 1: May I have the wisdom and the patience to let questions planted in me have time to grow rather than anxiously harvest answers whose season has not come.

Let your winter hi-bear-nation accomplish it's hidden work.

Scott Erickson

Reader 2: The pathway of awaking is not about becoming who you are, rather is about unbecoming who you are not.

Albert Schweitzer

Touch Point: Transgressions, teach me to be.

The seeds we choose to plant can give life to a beautiful masterpiece that enlivens the world in unique colors, distinctive pedals, an array of fragrance or it can create a field of weeds that squeeze life out anything or anyone who dares to enter. In this season of Lent we are reminded again and again to confess the seeds that we have planted, the weeds that we have fostered and the ways in which we have tainted this world.

In *silence* we invite you to do the following:

- Hold several seeds in your hand and confess the seeds of harm that we have sown.
- Reflect and recall the seeds of hatred and turning others away that have you sown.
- Reflect on the ways that you have held others hostage to your ideas, structures and systems that caused them to wither in silence or fade away from community.
- Reflect on the ways you can plant seeds of forgiveness, compassion and mercy.

When you are ready plant the seeds in the clay pot.

Congregational Response:

All: Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer to you.

Again and again, you choose us.

Again and again, you choose me.

Again and again, you love us.

Again and again, you love me.

Music

Scripture

Reader 1: Adapted from Psalm 51:1-7

Again and again...
have mercy on me
know my transgressions
teach me your wisdom
blot out my iniquities.

Again and again...
bring me close instead of casting me away.

Reflection and Imposition of Ashes

Touch point:

Ashes are a symbol that reminds us that again and again we can begin anew.

In *silence* we invite you to do the following:

- Return to the ampersand symbol that was used at the beginning of the service.
- Dip your finger into the ash mixture, with slow purposeful movements trace the ampersand symbol.
- As you trace the symbol say the following sacred refrain from God aloud to yourself or within the silence of your head and heart:
 Again and again I am chosen.
 Again and again I am loved.

When you are ready, dip your finger into the ash mixture again and draw a cross on your forehead or on the top of your hand.

Use your damp towel or paper towel to clean your fingers.

Remain in *silence*

Scripture

Adapted from Psalm 51:1-7

Again and again
wash me thoroughly
create in me a new and clean heart.

Again and again
renew my spirit
restore the joy of my salvation

Again and again
sustain my spirit
have mercy on me.

In silence, pour the water over the seeds and dirt that are in the clay pot.

Congregational Response:

All: Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer to you.

Again and again, you choose us.

Again and again, you choose me.

Again and again, you love us.

Again and again, you love me.

Sending Forth in Silence

Again and Again Weekly Liturgy

Within this At Home Lenten Experience you will find the liturgy, weekly scriptures and themes necessary to worship within your space at home, gathered on Zoom or in-person for worship each week.

The following Call to Confession and Affirmation of Faith will remain the same each Sunday until March 21st. The liturgy for these weeks can be found below. The liturgy for *Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday* are printed *within those specific Sundays*.

Call to Confession

God of love,

We forget the beginning of the story—

That we were made from love, to be love, to give love.

Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation,

We skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,

With Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.

We forget that first there was you, and you are love.

We forget that out of that love you created us.

We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.

We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.

Forgive our low self-esteem.

Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.

Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.

And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation.

Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.

With hope we pray, again and again

Again and Again we are forgiven.

Again and Again we are all forgiven.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
A God who stands with the underdog,
Who passionately protects the suffering,
And who overturns systems of corruption.**

**We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry,
Welcoming the children,
Offering water to the Samaritan,
Eating with the tax collector,
Healing the sick,
Preaching from the mountaintop,
And offering second chances.**

**We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”
And because of this love, We believe that God heals and redeems
Again and again and again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Celebration of Communion

First Week of Lent
February 21st

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and for *healing again and again*.

Centering

**We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God-given,
but that suffering is a part of life.
When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives,
Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we all are—worthy of
new life in the midst of hopelessness.
Again and again, we are healed.**

Scripture

Matthew 8:1-4
Matthew 8:16-17

Theme

Again and again we are healed.

Second Week of Lent
February, 28th

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and to be *brought into community again and again*.

Centering

**We are never alone,
we are never lost to the One who seeks humanity's wholeness.
We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ
that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnected community as part of
the process of healing.
Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome.
Again and again Jesus draws us into community**

Scripture

Matthew 8:5-13

Theme

Again and again we are brought into community

Third Week of Lent
March 7th

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and to remember again and again that *the truth sets us free*.

Centering

This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property.

There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle.

We focus on reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of divine worth.

Again and again, the truth sets us free.

Scripture

Matthew 9:27-33

Theme

Again and again the truth sets us free.

Fourth Week of Lent

March 14th

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, to know that *God engages us with again and again.*

Centering

Healing God, we come together in our brokenness,
to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

Wholeness—giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.

Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as
we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

God, our Quiet-Center, listen to our prayers this day.

Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you!

In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.

written by Joan Stott, and posted on **Geelong City Parish**

Scripture

Matthew 9:18-26

Theme

Again and again God engages with us

Fifth Week of Lent

March 21st

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and to remember that *God engages with us again and again* in this journey of following Jesus.

Centering

Help us, Healer.

Show us our ability to chart a different course.

Forgive our inaction.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another. Amen

Scripture

Matthew 8:18-27

Theme

Again and again God calls us forward

Palm Sunday
March 28th

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and to be reminded that Jesus *walks the road to redemption again and again* for us.

Supplies needed for worship

We invite you to color and cut out the palm branch coloring sheet found at the end of this packet. We will be waving our branches together during our ‘centering’ as we worship together.

Centering

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Let Israel say, “His love endures forever!” and all who fear God say, “His love endures forever!”

Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

With the Lord on our side, what can we fear? What can humankind do?

Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

We shall triumph over those who surround us and stand in confidence in the Lord,
our God!

Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

The Lord is our strength and our might. The Lord has become our salvation!

Hosanna to God, Hosanna in the highest!

Litany from Psalm 118

Scripture

Matthew 9:1-8

Theme

Again and again God walks the road to redemption for each of us.

Call to Confession

God of palm branches and hallelujahs:

We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.

We love the sound of a joyful parade.

We love shouting, “hallelujah!”

We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner.

We love good news.

However, if we slow down and pay attention,

We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you.

There was risk.

There was fear.

There was the threat of violence.

You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire,

And the whole world knew it.

Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.

Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,

**And even we can do hard things
With hope we pray. Amen**

Words of Assurance

Family of faith,
Even when we gloss over the truth,
Even when our courage fails us,
Even when we doubt that we can do hard things,
God believes in us.
God loves us.
God forgives us.
Hear and believe this truth:

**We are known.
We are loved.
We are forgiven.
Again and again and again. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
A God who stands with the underdog,
Who passionately protects the suffering,
And who overturns systems of corruption.**

**We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry,
Welcoming the children,
Offering water to the Samaritan,
Eating with the tax collector,
Healing the sick,
Preaching from the mountaintop,
And offering second chances.**

**We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”
And because of this love, We believe that God heals and redeems
Again and again and again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Easter Sunday

April 4th

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, and to be reminded that the stone was moved away in order for us to be *we are resurrected again and again*.

Centering

Again and again the sun will rise.

Again and again we will rise and make our way to the tomb

Again and again, disbelief and joy will flood the hearts and minds of Jesus's followers.

Again and again, the story will be shared.

Again and again, joy and disbelief will run through our veins.

Again and again, we will share our story of resurrection.

Again and again, there will be shouts of resurrection proclaiming "He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Again and again, let us proclaim "He is risen, He is risen indeed!"

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: Again and again the stone is rolled away and we are resurrected.

Affirmation of Faith

Again and again, we know the fear of the upper room.

Again and again, we will feel the emptiness of the tomb and know the grief of the tomb,

Again and again, we will know the pain of Good Friday,

And still,

We believe.

We believe that again and again,

The sun will rise.

Again and again, God will draw near.

Again and again, God will lead the church.

Again and again, God will draw us near even in our imperfections.

And still,

We believe.

We believe that Jesus rises again and again on our behalf.

Again and again, God heals our brokenness.

Again and again, God will bring us into community with one another.

Again and again, God's truth sets us free.

Again and again, God engages with us.

Again and again, God calls us forward.

Again and again, God redeems and restores us.

Again and again, we believe in the resurrection of life everlasting. Amen

Good Friday Stations of the Cross At Home

Stations of the Cross are designed to move us through Jesus' journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to his last breath on the cross. Each station is designed to help us engage in the emotions in which Jesus might have experienced as he stepped into the darkness of death.

Typically there are twelve to fourteen physical Stations that capture the movement of Jesus' journey. This year we have combined some of the Stations to create an experience in which you can choose to do as an individual or as a family.

Please feel free to adapt and choose the action that fits your personal needs and situation. These stations do not have to be done all at once. You may choose to do some of them on Friday and finish them on Saturday. If you post pictures to social media, please tag Blakemore UMC so that we might experience this journey together.

Opening Prayer

God of power and mercy we step into this journey with you so that we might understand the power of how your death leads us to new life. May we experience the gravity and wonder of the cross as we walk with you. Come Holy Spirit, come. Amen

Station 1

Matthew 26:36-41

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."

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. Take your favorite cup/mug and hold it in your hand.
 - Concentrate on the weight of the cup as you hold it in your hand.
 - Reflect on what God is calling you to do during this season within your life that leaves you feeling uncomfortable.
 - Imagine yourself letting go of the uncomfortable stance and stepping into what God has called you to do.
2. Spend time outside to experience the 'garden'.
 - Let the ground beneath your feet steady your soul.
 - Listen for the movement and songs of the animals
 - Breathe in the sounds of assurance.
 - Feel the breeze upon your face to be reminded that you are not alone.
3. Take a picture of the 'garden' that surrounds you or of your favorite cup.

Station 2

Matthew 26:14-16

“Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priest and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.”

Mark 14:43-46

“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.

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. Gather several coins and hold them within your hand.
 - Reflect upon your current financial situation, ask yourself what you would do to wipe away the debt that you owe.
 - As you continue holding onto the coins reflect on the ways that you rely on worldly titles and the approval of others.
2. Walk through your house to find all the silver items and reflect on how these items came into your possession.
 - Share memories verbally/ through journaling about the significance of a few of the main items.
 - Reflect on ways the ways that God values you.
3. Take a picture of stack of ‘coins’

Station 3

Matthew 26: 69-75

"Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

*Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"
Immediately a rooster crowed.*

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. During the Palm Sunday worship service we asked the question "Who is he?"
 - Take a few minutes to journal and reflect upon the ways that you have remained silent when you should have spoken out on behalf of someone else?
 - Reflect on the ways have you wept in silence for the harm that your actions have caused to another person?
2. Print off a black and white picture of a rooster for each member of your family and spend time coloring the picture.
 - If you are an doing this individually write a prayer of confession for the ways that you denied Jesus by harming another person.
 - If you are doing it with your children write down ways that we can be kind to our neighbor, your community and our church to remember who Jesus is.
3. Take a photo of a bird to represent the rooster crowing.

Station 4

Mark 15:1-5, 15

"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 Barrabas... [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified."

John 19:1-3

"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."

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. Walk outside and find a prickly plant.
 - Hold the plant in your hand, feel it pricking your skin.
 - Reflect on a specific hardship in your life; one that left you feeling exposed and broken.
 - Say a prayer that claims the ways the hardship has shaped you and molded you.
2. Find a purple object within your home.
 - Either holding onto the object or placing it in front of you reflect on the ways that Jesus has clothed you in unexpected ways.
3. Using purple markers, crayons, colored pencils write words or draw a picture that represent new life pouring over you in this moment.
4. Take a photo of the prickly plant, the purple object or your words that represent new life.

Station 5

John 19:6,15-17

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). "

Mark 15:21-24

"A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. Find a cross within your home; if it is one that you can pick up and hold, take the time to carry it around for the next 5 minutes (or longer if you feel inclined to do so).
 - Reflect on the ways carrying the cross impacts your everyday movements.
 - Reflect on the places that you wanted to set the cross down in order to make your task a bit easier to accomplish.
 - How might carrying the cross on a daily basis be difficult and yet be life giving in your everyday experiences.
2. Draw a cross on a piece of paper.
 - After drawing your cross; on the horizontal write a sentence (or two) about a time in which God stretched open God's arms and embraced you in love, wisdom and wholeness when you felt as though you didn't deserve it.
 - On the vertical starting at the top moving to the bottom write adjectives of who God is for you today. With each word that you write take a moment to let that word fill you beginning with your mind, moving into your heart, down into your feet and over your entire being.
3. Take a picture of your favorite cross.

Station 6

Luke 23:32-3

“Two criminals were led out to be put to death with Jesus. When the soldiers came to the place called ‘The Skull,’^[b] they nailed Jesus to a cross. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive these people! They don’t know what they’re doing.’^[c] While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by saying, ‘He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God’s chosen Messiah!

While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by saying, ‘He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God’s chosen Messiah!’ The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine.³⁷ They said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!’”

Above him was a sign that said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!”

But the other criminal told the first one off, “Don’t you fear God? Aren’t you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn’t do anything wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into power!”

Jesus replied, “I promise that today you will be with me in paradise.”

Stations of the Cross Actions

1. Find the heaviest nail/screw that you can find within your garage/home.
 - Take a few minutes to hold it in your hand.
 - As you hold the nail reflect upon a time in which God held you up and provided a way that was unexpected.
 - Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the ways that God has been with you in difficult times.
2. Write a prayer of confession for the times that your actions have broken someone else’s spirit, that you have failed your neighbor and not done what God has asked you to do.
3. Take a picture of stack of nails.

Station 7

Mark 15:33-37

“At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).^[b]

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.”

Station of the Cross Actions

1. Read Psalm 22, how does reading this Psalm deepen your understanding of Jesus’ final words on the cross?
2. Reflect and/or journal about a time when you felt like you were breathing your last breath and that God seemed to be distant and unresponsive to the cries of your heart.
3. Reflect and/or journal about how this time of quarantine and isolation has helped you feel the emotions of how lonely Jesus might have felt on the cross awaiting the day of his resurrection.
4. Walk outside and breathe in the deepest, longest breath that you can breathe. Let the fresh air fill your lungs and renew your spirit in this season of darkness and death.
5. Take a picture of something that represent breath.