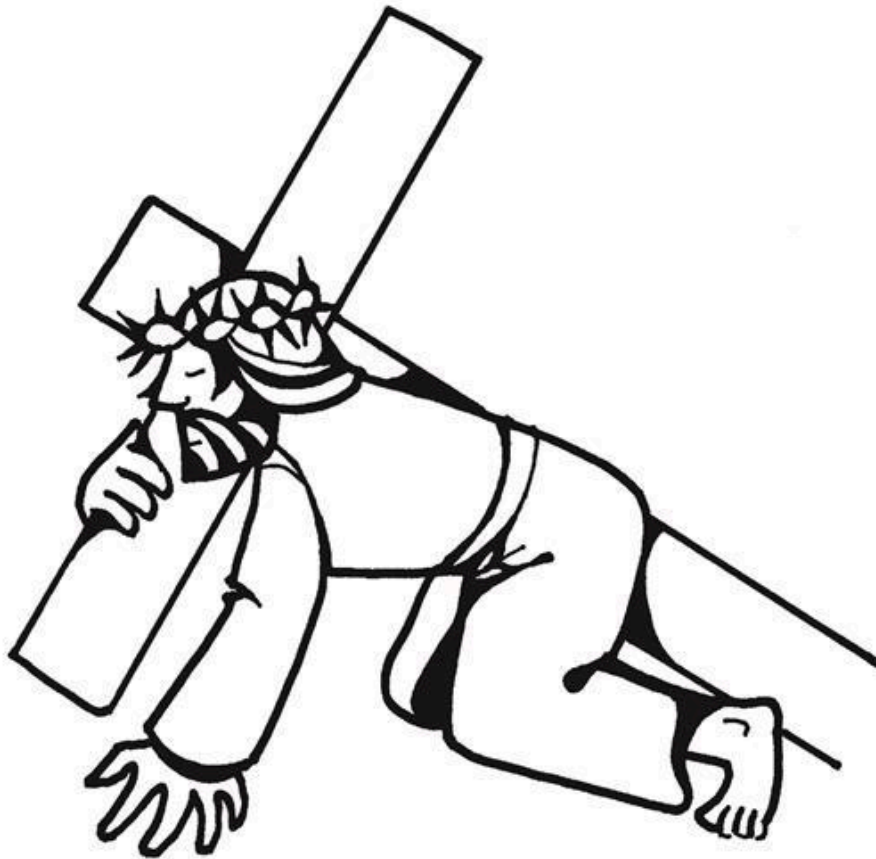




THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
A Congregation of the Episcopal Church
StMartinEC.org | 215.247.7466

Stations Of The Cross

For Children, Youth, and Families



Please visit www.StMartinEC.org/StationsCYF to access more resources for your children and family or email, Director of Music & Arts, Tyrone Whiting at twhiting@stmartinec.org

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYERS

Leader Let us pray.

All Dear Jesus,

Today we follow you on the road of love and sacrifice

As we follow Jesus on his way to crucifixion..

Help us to understand how much you care for us.

Help us to be kind, patient, and forgiving, just as you were.

Be with us as we pray and walk with you.

We share in your love, Jesus, and we want to follow you always.

Amen.

Leader Now, let us begin our journey with Jesus.

All Let us follow Jesus.

THE FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader Jesus was kind, loving, truthful, and taught people about God. But some leaders were afraid of his message and didn't like how many people followed him. They told lies about him and decided he should be punished, even though he had done nothing wrong. Jesus could have tried to stop them, but he chose to accept his path, because it is a path of love. He wanted to show us how to be faithful and trust in God, even when things are difficult.

Leader Jesus, people were mean and unkind to you.

All Help us to be kind to everyone.

DISCUSSION

Leader Have you ever been treated unfairly? How did it feel, and what would Jesus want us to do in those moments?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, sometimes people are treated unfairly.

All Help us to stand up for what is right and do it in loving ways.

THE SECOND STATION

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader After Jesus was sentenced to die, the soldiers gave him a big, heavy wooden cross to carry. He had already been hurt by them and was very tired, but he carried the cross on his shoulders and started walking. Every step was painful, but Jesus kept going because he knew this was part of God's plan to save the world. Sometimes we also have hard things to do, like chores, homework, or helping someone when we don't feel like it. Jesus shows us how to keep going, even when we feel tired or weak.

Leader Jesus, you carried something very heavy.

All Help us to carry the heavy things in our lives with love.

DISCUSSION

Leader What are some hard things in your life that feel like carrying a heavy cross? How can Jesus help you?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, carrying the cross was hard, but You kept going.

All Help us to be strong when things are difficult.

THE THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader The cross was so heavy that Jesus couldn't carry it easily. His body was hurting, and he was very weak. After walking for a while, he fell to the ground. The soldiers yelled at him to get up, and even though he was in pain, Jesus stood up and kept walking. We all fall down sometimes—not just physically, but when we make mistakes or feel like giving up. Jesus teaches us that even when we fall, we should stand up, try again, and keep moving forward.

Leader Jesus, you fell, but you got up again.

All Help us to keep trying when things are hard.

DISCUSSION

Leader When you make a mistake or fail at something, what helps you get back up and try again?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, when we fall or fail, You show us how to get up.

All Help us to keep trying and never give up.

THE FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader As Jesus walked with the heavy cross, he saw his mother, Mary, standing nearby. She loved Jesus very much and felt sad to see him hurting so much, but she stayed close to him. Even though Jesus was in pain, seeing his mother gave him comfort. Mary didn't leave him, just like our families and caregivers love and support us when we are sad. We should remember to love and care for our families, just like Jesus and Mary loved each other.

Leader Jesus, your mother loved you so much.

All Help us to love and care for our families and caregivers.

DISCUSSION

Leader How can you show love and kindness to your family when they are sad or going through a hard time? How does your family show you love?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, Your mother loved and comforted You.

All Help us to love and care for our families.

THE FIFTH STATION

JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader As Jesus struggled to carry the cross, the soldiers saw that he was getting too weak. They pulled a man named Simon from the crowd and had him help Jesus. Simon didn't know Jesus personally, but he still helped. Sometimes we might be asked to help someone we don't know well, or do something we weren't expecting. Jesus teaches us that helping others, even when it's not easy, is an important way to show love.

Leader Jesus, a friend helped you.

All Help us to be good friends to others.

DISCUSSION

Leader Can you think of a time when you helped someone who was struggling? How did it feel to help them? Or when someone helped you?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, Simon helped You when You were struggling.

All Help us to be kind and help others when they need us.

THE SIXTH STATION

JESUS AND VERONICA

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader As Jesus walked, he was hot, tired, and covered in sweat and dust. A kind woman named Veronica saw how much he was suffering. She ran up to him and gently wiped his face with a cloth. This small act of kindness didn't take away Jesus' pain, but it showed him love and care. We can all be like Veronica by doing small things to help others—smiling at someone who looks sad, holding a door open, or saying kind words. Little acts of love make a big difference.

Leader Jesus, someone was kind to you.

All Help us to be kind to those in need.

DISCUSSION

Leader What small act of kindness can you do for someone today to show them love?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, Veronica showed kindness in a small way.

All Help us to show love through small acts of kindness.

THE SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader Even with Simon helping him, Jesus was so weak that he fell again. The journey was long, and his body was in so much pain. But Jesus didn't give up—he slowly stood up and kept walking. Sometimes, when we try to do something and it doesn't work the first time, we feel frustrated. But Jesus teaches us to keep trying and not to give up, even when things seem really hard.

Leader Jesus, you fell again, but you got back up.

All Help us to never give up doing what is right.

DISCUSSION

Leader What helps you keep going when something is really hard or frustrating?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, You fell again, but You got back up.

All Help us to keep trying, even when things are hard.

THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader As Jesus walked through the streets, some women were crying for him because they felt sad about what was happening. Even still, with all he was having to go through, he stopped to comfort them. He told them not to be sad for him but to take care of each other. Even in his suffering, Jesus thought about others. He shows us that even when we are sad or struggling, we can still be kind to the people around us.

Leader Jesus, you comforted others even in your pain.

All Help us to care for others, even when we are sad.

DISCUSSION

Leader Jesus comforted others even when He was suffering. How can we care for others, even when we are having a bad day?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, even when You were hurting, You comforted others.

All Help us to be kind and caring, even when we are sad.

THE NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader Jesus had almost reached the end of his journey, but he was so weak that he fell to the ground a third time. It must have been tempting to stay down and give up, but he didn't. He got up, took a deep breath, and kept going. Jesus shows us that no matter how many times we fall—whether we make mistakes, fail at something, or feel discouraged—Jesus never gives up on us, and we should never stop trying. God is always with us, giving us strength.

Leader Jesus, you kept going even when it was hard.

All Help us to be strong and trust in you.

DISCUSSION

Leader Have you ever felt like giving up? What would Jesus say to encourage you to keep trying?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, sometimes we feel too tired to keep going.

All Give us the strength to always try again.

THE TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader When Jesus arrived at the place where he would die, the soldiers took away his clothes. He had nothing left, but he didn't fight back. He trusted that God was with him. Sometimes we feel embarrassed or left out, like when we don't have what others have or when someone is unkind to us. Jesus reminds us that what we own doesn't matter—what matters is having love in our hearts and trusting in God.

Leader Jesus, people took away your things.

All Help us to share what we have with others.

DISCUSSION

Leader Jesus lost everything but still trusted in God. How can we trust God when we feel scared or alone?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, You lost everything, but You still trusted God.

All Help us to trust in God, even when we feel afraid.

THE ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader The soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. Even then, he still loved us and he prayed for the people who hurt him, asking God to "forgive them." Jesus showed us how to forgive, even when it's really hard. Sometimes people say or do things that hurt us, but Jesus teaches us that forgiving others brings peace to our hearts.

Leader Jesus, you forgave the people who hurt you.

All Help us to forgive others, just as you forgive us.

DISCUSSION

Leader Jesus forgave the people who hurt Him. Is there someone you need to forgive? How can you ask Jesus to help you? What does "forgiving" mean to you?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, You forgave those who hurt You.

All Help us to forgive others, even when it is hard.

THE TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader After suffering for a long time, Jesus took one last deep breath and died. The sky turned dark, and the earth shook. The people who loved him were very sad. Jesus gave his life because he loved us so much. Even though this was a sad moment, it wasn't the end of the story. Jesus' love is bigger than anything, even beyond our death..

Leader Jesus, you showed us how much you love us.

All Help us to love you and others every day.

DISCUSSION

Leader Jesus showed His love by giving everything for us. How can we show love to others like Jesus did? Can you think of other people who risk their lives to help or save others?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, You gave Your life because You love us.

All Help us to love others as You love us.

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader After Jesus had died, some of his friends carefully took his body down from the cross. His mother Mary held him in her arms, just like she had when he was a baby. Everyone was heartbroken, but they still loved Jesus and took care of him with kindness. When we are sad or lose someone we love, Jesus understands and loves us. He is always with us, helping to bring comfort and love.

Leader Jesus, your friends took care of you.

All Help us to care for others with love.

DISCUSSION

Leader Jesus' friends took care of Him after He died. How can we take care of people who are sad or hurting?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, Your friends cared for You with love.

All Help us to take care of those who are sad or hurting.

THE FOURTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS LAID IN THE SEPULCHER/TOMB

Leader Help us to know the Way of the Cross following in Jesus' footsteps.

All That we may walk in love, with courage, and compassion.

Reader Jesus' friends wrapped his body in a cloth and placed him in a tomb, a small cave with a big stone rolled in front of it. It seemed like the end. But in just three days, something amazing would happen—Jesus would rise from the dead! Even when things seem the most dark or hopeless, we can trust that God brings new life and hope.

Leader Jesus, it seemed like the end, but it was not.

All Help us to trust in your love and hope in your promises.

DISCUSSION

Leader Even though Jesus was placed in the tomb, we know that Easter is coming! What does this teach us about hope and God's love?

(Time for reflection and discussion)

Leader Jesus, even in his last moments among us, never lost hope..

All Help us to trust in God's love and never lose hope.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Leader Dear Jesus, we have walked with you on the road of love and sacrifice. We have seen how you suffered, how you forgave, and how you never stopped loving us.

All Help us to follow You always.

Leader When we feel tired or weak, give us strength.
When we make mistakes, help us to try again.
When we see someone in need, show us how to help.
When we feel sad, remind us that you are always with us.

All Help us to show and live in your love.

Leader Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice for us and for showing us the way to and with God. We know that this is not the end of the story—because Jesus rose again! Help us to share your love with everyone we meet. **Amen.**