

# *The Way of the Cross*

*Meditations on  
Christ's Passion  
in the context of  
Our Abuse of  
Creation*



*Poems by Alan  
McIntosh  
Prayers and Art Work  
by Janet Hall*

It is a joy as Rector of Wyke Parish to commend these beautiful reflections on the way of the Cross produced by Janet Hall and Alan McIntosh TSSF. It is my sincere hope that not only as a Parish but individually we may reflect on the way of the cross in our personal lives as well as in the life our wonderful “Mother Earth” Our Common Home. May this resource not only be for our good but the good of all.

Peace and All Good

Rev'd Br Alasdair Kay CFC

Rector of The Parish of Wyke Parish, All Saint's with St Edmund

“This beautiful version of the Way of the Cross juxtaposes the modern climate crisis and the story of salvation. The actions that contributed to Jesus' crucifixion are shown here, with vivid clarity, to be operative in the abuse of creation today. Yet as we die to self as we carry the Cross, we can bring a new message to the world that can lead to transformed ways of living on the earth. Many thanks for this timely, creative contribution to an ancient devotional practice.”

Br. Clark Berge, SSF

Guardian, Hilfield Friary The Society of St. Francis The Friary Hilfield

‘I am really encouraged that Janet and Alan have put together such a rich resource of material to guide us on our spiritual way as we approach Easter. Please take the opportunity to use them in your daily prayer and may your faith be enriched by them’ Bishop Karen

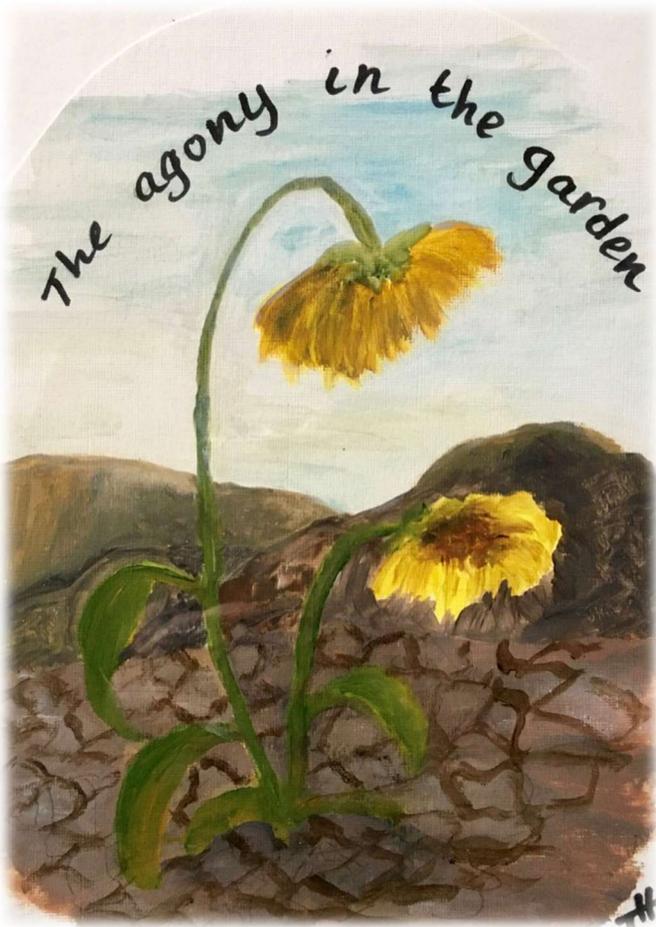
Rt Rev'd Karen Gorham Bishop of Sherbourne

## Station 1: The Agony in the Garden

*They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'*

Mark 14.32-36

**Lord, where is your friend?  
As your faint footsteps falter,  
Crushed by Cross's weight,  
Peter sleeps in the garden.  
The cock crow pierces the dawn.**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear and faced death, be with those who suffer from drought and famine.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we still cause you agony.

Amen

## Station 2: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas

*Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.*

*Mark 14.43-46*

**Was I that witness,  
Seeing Christ fall yet again?  
What made me turn back,  
Dissolve into the darkness –  
Betray the red heart of Love?**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed and had your love thrown back in your face.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we still betray you.

Amen

### Station 3: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

*Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands".' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven".' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death.*

Mark 14.55-64



**Let them set their traps.  
'The Son of the Blessed One.'  
Truth breaks the Silence.  
The High Priest leans on his  
Rule.  
Shadows hide false  
witnesses.**

#### **Prayer**

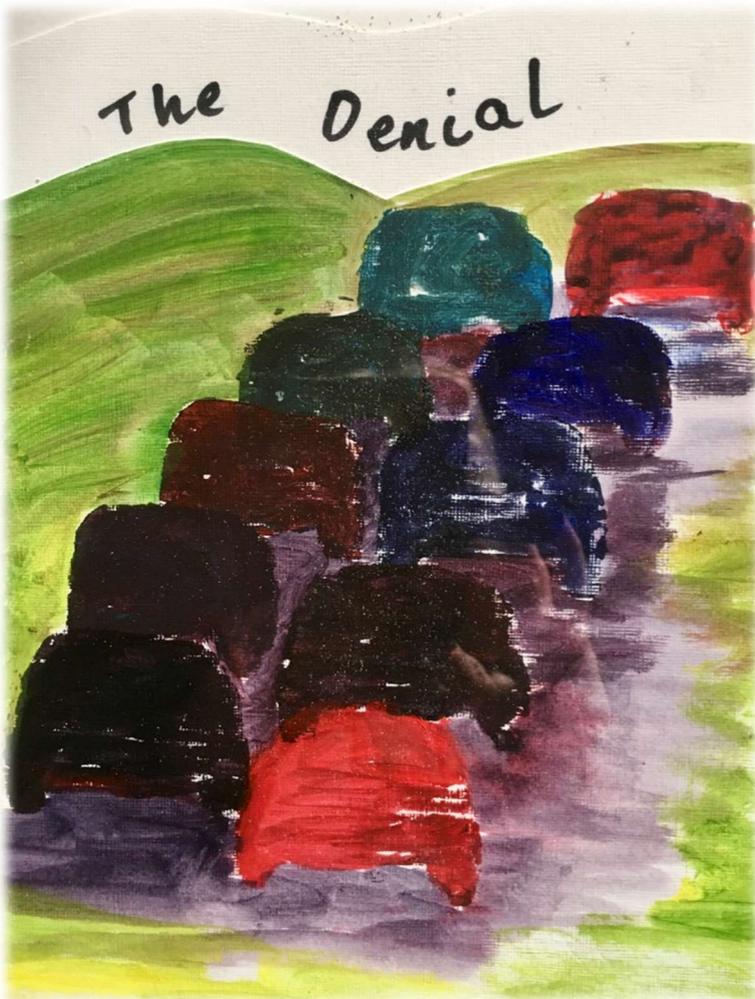
Lord Jesus, you were condemned by those who shut themselves off from the experience and wisdom of others. Forgive us that, through our failure to listen, we still condemn your creation. Amen

## Station 4: Peter Denies Jesus

*At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.*

*Mark 14.72*

**Your friends had scattered.  
Peter denied knowing you.  
You fall on black dust.  
For the sake of us you rise.  
The Man of Sorrows saves us.**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter denied knowing you, we still deny our part in global warming and refuse to change our lifestyles. Forgive us that, through our selfishness, we still deny our responsibility.

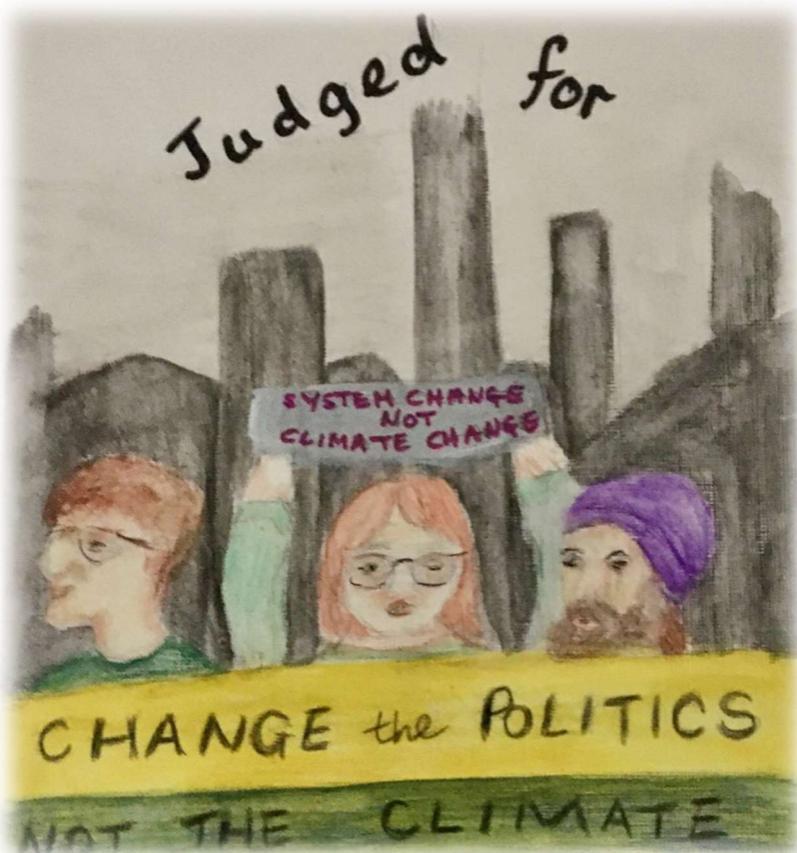
Amen

## Station 5: Jesus Judged by Pilate

*Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.*

*Mark 15.14,15*

**Had you been Pilate,  
Hearing this innocent man  
Speak truth from silence,  
Would you have defied the mobs -  
Set free this King of the World?**



**Political Expedience**

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were judged by others for political expediency.

Change the minds of those who refuse to face up to the challenges ahead for fear of financial loss or political unpopularity.

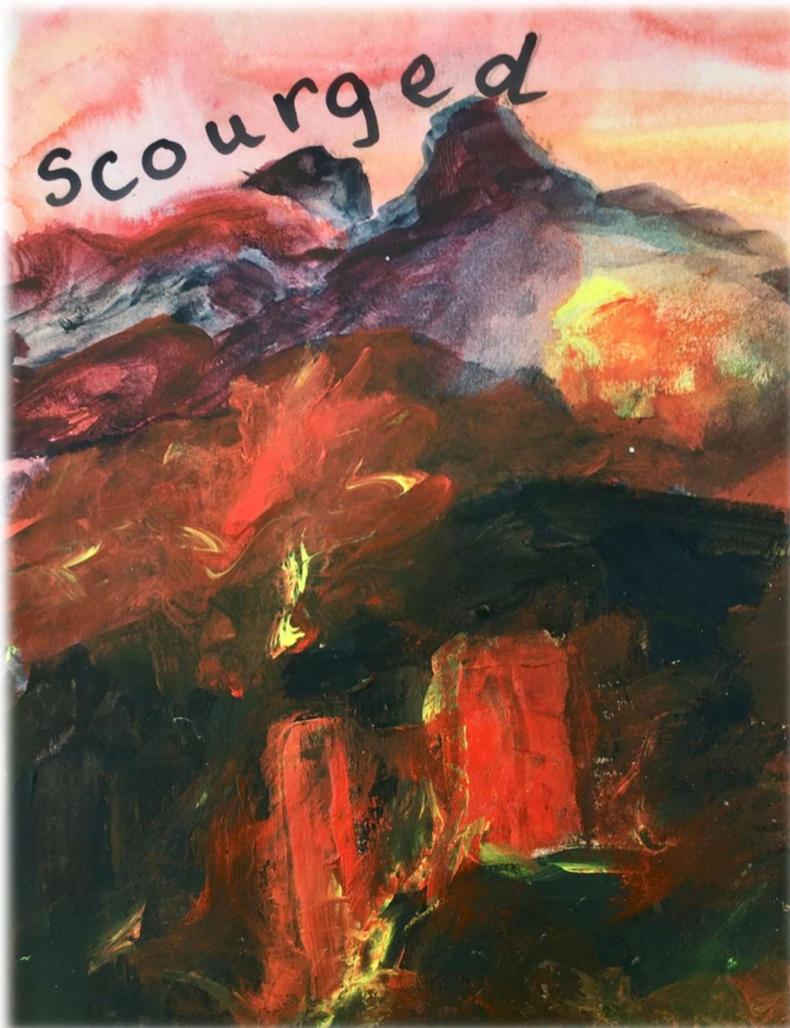
Forgive us when we judge others rather than change ourselves. Amen

## Station 6: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

*And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.*

*Mark 15.17-19*

**Toothed lash rips Christ's flesh:  
He suffers the crown of thorns.  
Guards mock this true King.  
Theirs is casual violence.  
Unbowed, the King lifts his Cross.**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and still feel the pain of seeing your earth scourged by fire and flood. Be with all those who are victims of catastrophes.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we still scourge you.

Amen

## Station 7: Jesus Carries the Cross

*After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him.  
Then they led him out to crucify him.*

*Mark 15.20*

**She was one woman  
Among many that dark day.  
Breaking the guards' rank  
She soothed Christ's face with  
*The Cloth* -  
Small kindness marked forever.**

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the streets of Jerusalem. Be with those who are loaded with burdens through poverty and despair. Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we put these burdens on others.  
Amen



## **Station 8: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to Carry the Cross**

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Mark 15.21*

**Abandoned by friends  
Your Cross hammers you to ground.  
It takes a stranger  
With rural strength to bear this load.  
Simon's new life blazes ahead**



### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue and needed the help of a passing stranger. Be with all those who are trying help make things better for your creation.

Forgive us that, through our idleness we do not always help as we should.

Amen

## Station 9: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

*A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'*

*Luke 23.27-31*

**These women of Peace  
Hold aloft their dove-banners.  
'Do not weep for me,  
Daughters of Jerusalem.  
Weep tears for your lost children.'**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you and women still weep in this broken world.

Move us to tears at the plight of those who suffer from the ravages of climate change.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we still cause women to weep.

Amen

## Station 10: Jesus is Crucified

*And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.*

*Mark 15.24*

**Stretched out on your Cross  
You suffer their hammering.  
Who drove in the nails?  
Why did I just stand and watch?  
They raise him as women wail.**

**This is emptiness -  
Stripped to bone, papyrus skin.  
This is carnate flesh,  
The poverty of silence.  
'Let them cast lots for my  
clothes.'**



### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were crucified on a cross. Through our carelessness and greed, we still cause death and pain to your creation.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we still crucify you.

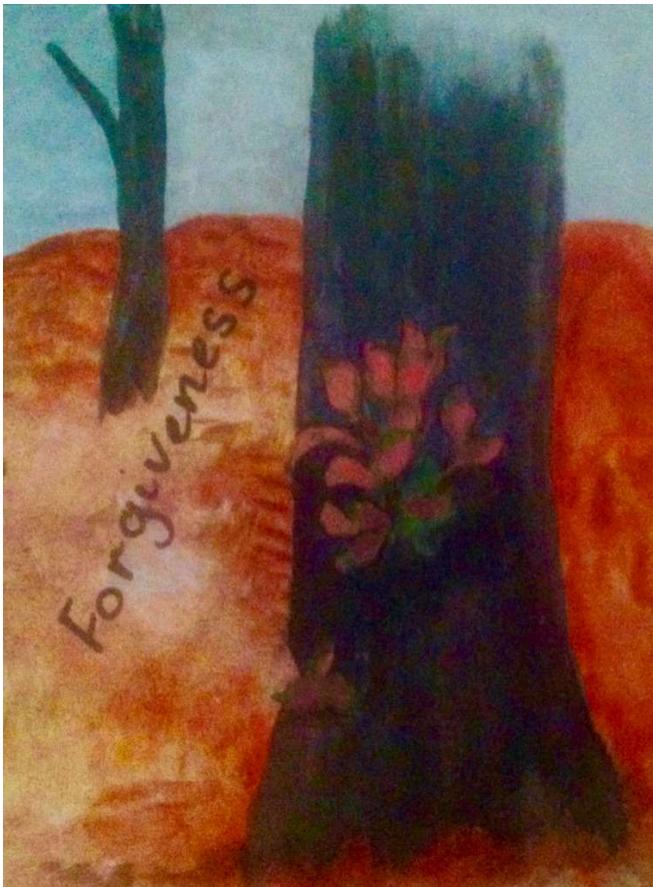
Amen

## Station 11: Jesus and the Penitent Thief

*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.'*

*Luke 23.39-43*

**I hang in dark shame –  
My trail of crimes led me here.  
Yet *his* goodness shone.  
*'Do remember me, Jesus,  
Absolve me from life's ruins.'***



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you spoke words of love and forgiveness. We thank you that you still speak words of love to a dying world and bring life out of death.

Forgive us when we find it hard to forgive each other.

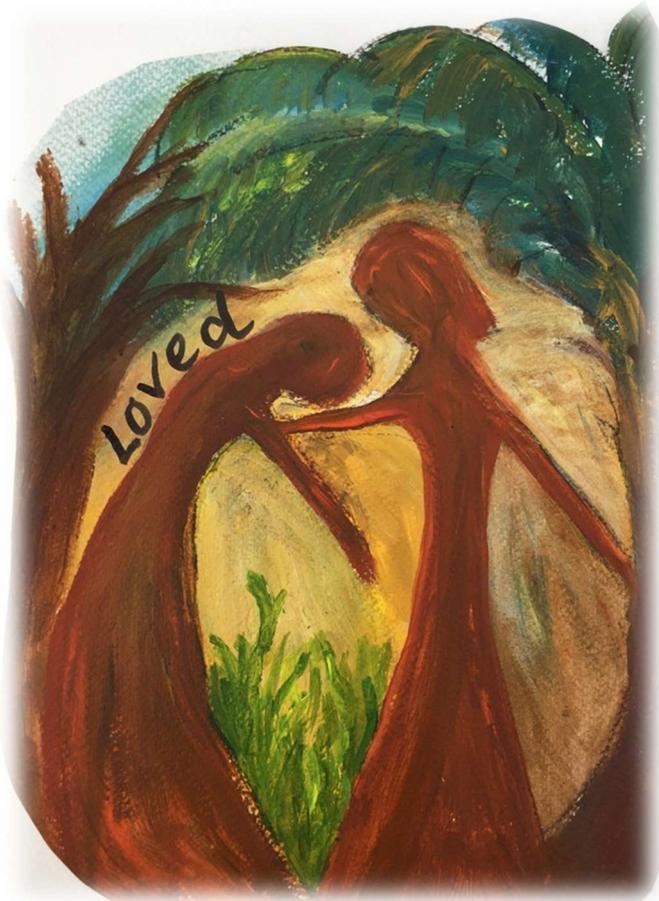
Amen

## Station 12: Jesus on the Cross; His Mother and Friend

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

*John 19.26,27*

**A mother must touch her son.  
Rome keeps them apart.  
Before his last breath  
She suffers his every step.  
She will weep beneath his Cross.**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you showed care for your loved ones even near to death. Give us a love for one another and the whole of your creation that is stronger than our own needs and greed.

Forgive us when we fail to show that love.

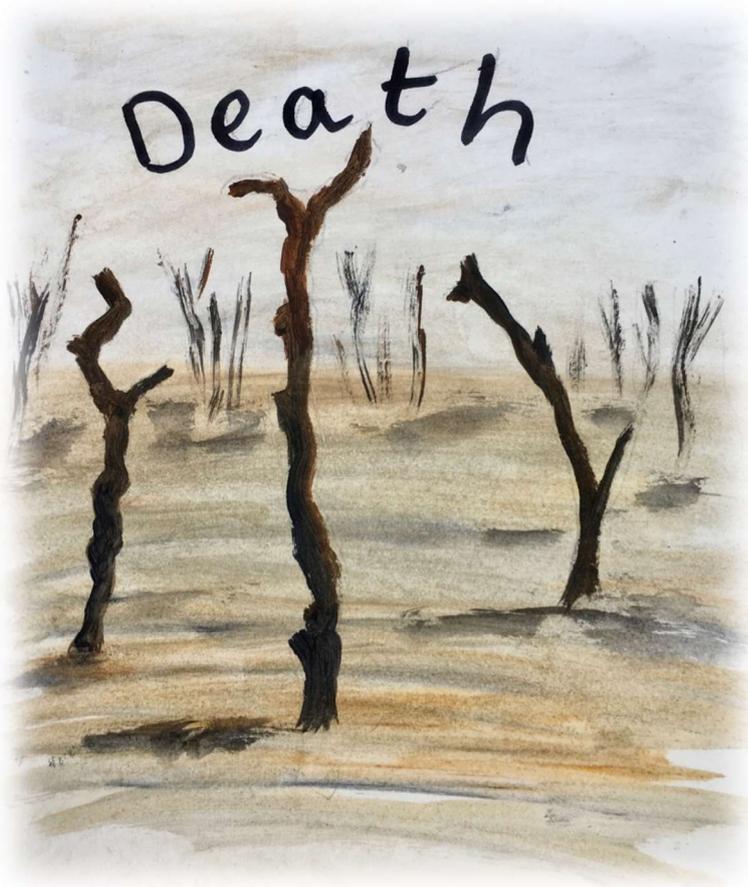
Amen

## Station 13: Jesus Dies on the Cross

*At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*

*Mark 15.34-37*

**The sun veiled its face;  
The temple's soul was shattered.  
We heard his last breaths,  
His broken body relapsed.  
His Spirit rose like a Dove.**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross in the most terrible way. Be with all those who die in a cruel or painful way.

Forgive us that, through our misuse of your creation, we cause the death of others and still crucify you.

Amen

## Station 14: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

*Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.*

*Mark 15.46*

**Mother holds her Son.  
Her tears wash his bruised body.  
Even the guards stand mute.  
His friends' love surround his  
form.  
We searched in vain for Peter.**

**We followed custom –  
Wrapped him in cloth with spices,  
Then laid him, slid the stone.  
We did not sense an ending.  
At dusk strange hope filled our  
hearts!**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were dead but now you are alive in new and glorious way. Help us to transform the parts of our planet which we have destroyed into glorious new life.

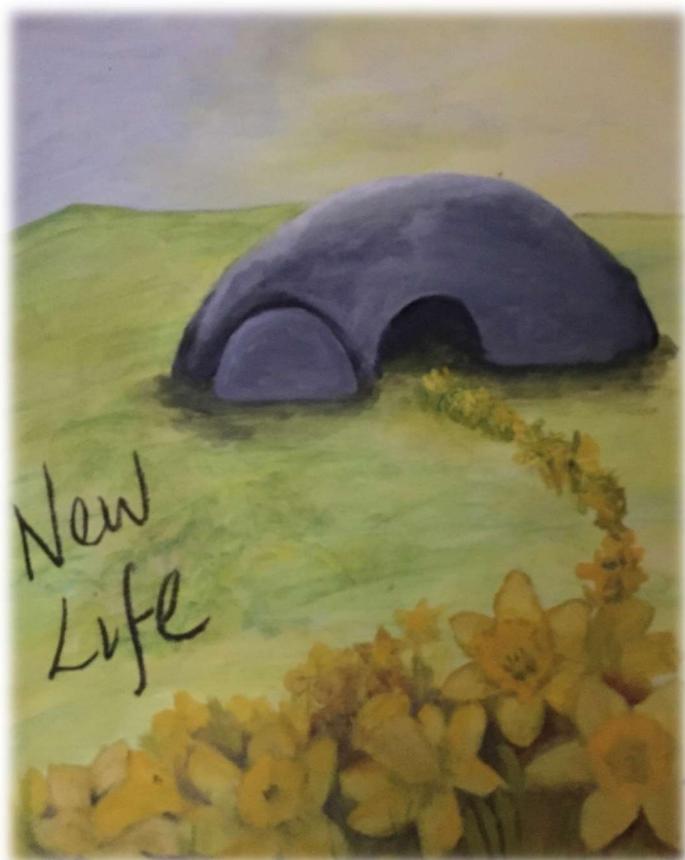
Amen

## Station 15: Resurrection

*When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

Mark 16.4-8

**When he said, 'Mary!' -  
Then I knew this is my Lord.  
Why am I the first?  
I came early to mourn him.  
CHRIST HAS RISEN THIS MORNING!**



### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were dead but now you are alive in a new and glorious way. Help us to transform the parts of our planet which we have destroyed into glorious new life.

Amen