Meditation on the Cross
Julian of Norwich Anglican Church
Ottawa, Ontario

Created by the Reverend Monique Stone
Good Friday 2020

During the identified times for Silence & Reflection you are encouraged to sit in silence for a period of one to two minutes

Sources:
Artwork: Sieger Koder
For information on Sieger Koder:
https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/fr-sieger-köder-rip
(The book: A Folly of God includes this artwork:
https://www.amazon.ca/Folly-God-Journey-Cross-Light/dp/0952253895)

Citations for some Collect Prayers that have been sourced from the works of Padrai O' Tauma. Originally sourced from:
http://www.padraigotuama.com/news/stationsofthecross

www.julianofnorwichottawa.ca

STATION 1 ~ Jesus is Condemned to Die



Collect Prayer:
God of the accused and the accusing, who made the mouth, the ear and the heart of all in conflict. May we turn ourselves towards that which must be heard, because there we will hear your voice. Amen.[1]

Reading: Matthew 27: 15-23
Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: Look into our hearts Lord Jesus. Make them more like yours. When it is best for your world, give us the strength to bear our crosses with silence and forgiveness. May we always find peace in the knowledge that we do not bear our suffering alone. you shoulder our burden with us and walk us toward resurrected life. Amen.

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[1] @Padraig O' Tauma in Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community
https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781848258686/daily-prayer-with-the-corrymeela-community

STATION 2 ~ Jesus Takes His Cross



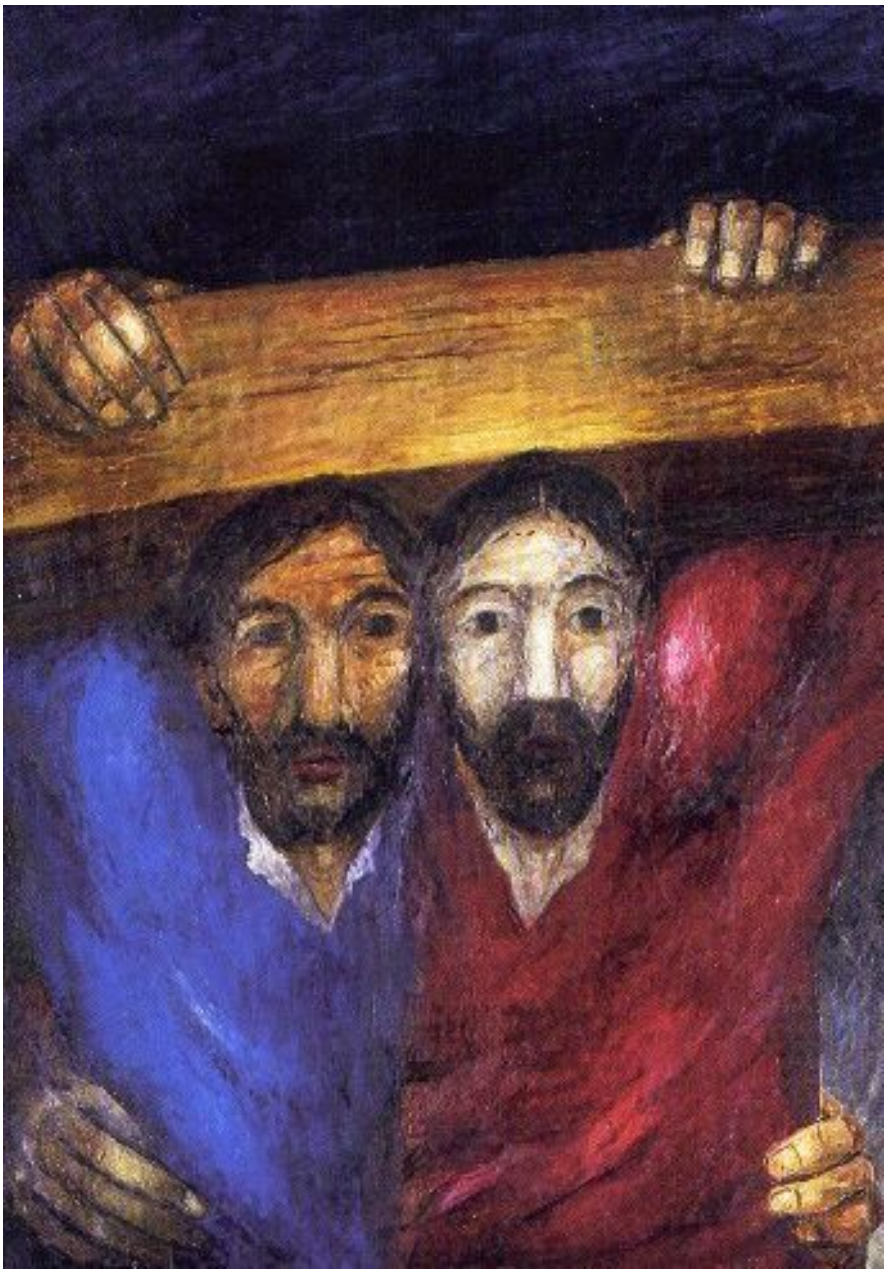
Collect Prayer:
God of the cross, who carries the weight of the world on your shoulders. As we feel the weight of this time in our bodies and heart may we remember that you are beside us and within us to help us carry. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 27: 24-26
So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: All: Holy God, problems that must be born for long periods of time seem to weigh heavier and heavier with each passing day. Grateful are we for the endurance we find in the company of Jesus. Many times he has held us up until we reached the place where we could lay our burdens down. May we be his strong hands helping others to move forward. Amen.

STATION 3 ~ Simon Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross



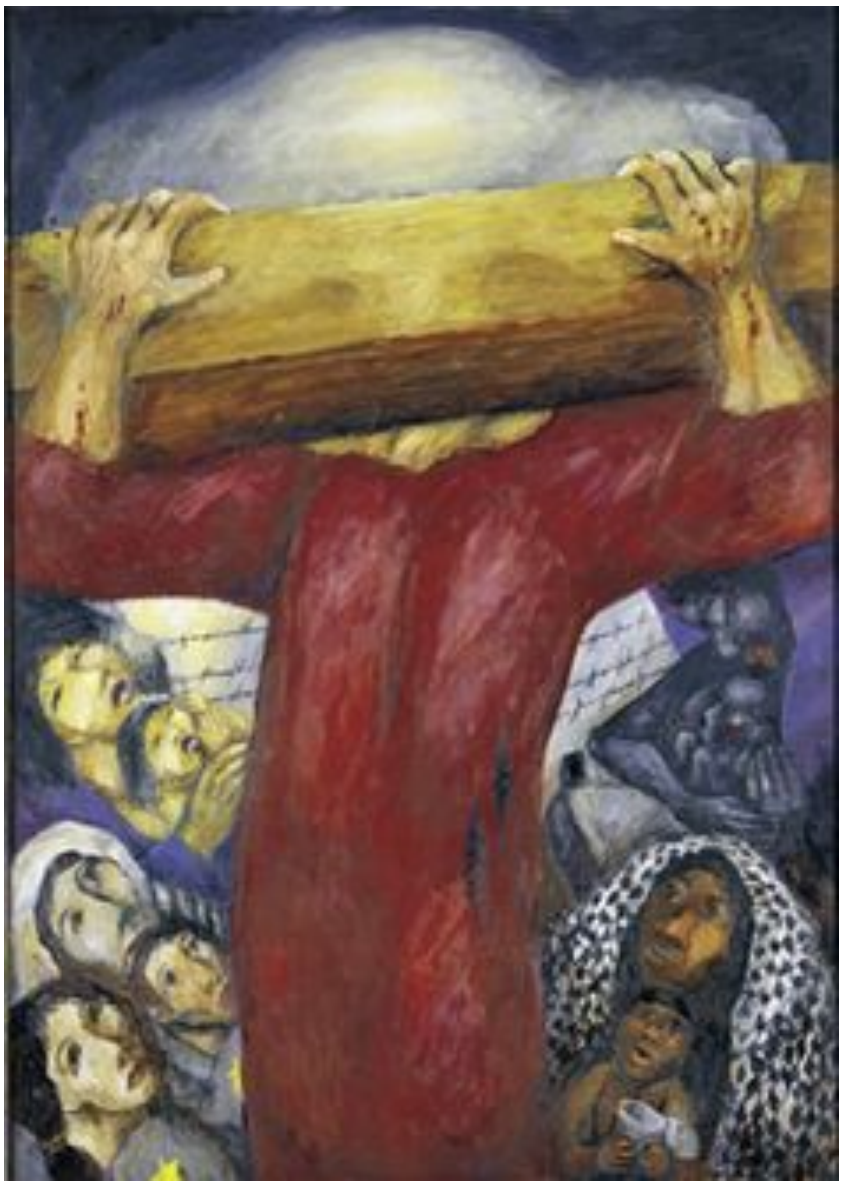
Collect Prayer:
God of friendship, whose journey was upheld by the joys and challenges of being in relationship. As we are separated from friends and family at this time may we remember that the bonds of companions transcend space and time and can carry us through. Amen.

Reading: Luke 23:26-27
As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: O God, just as Simon was seized to carry the Cross of Jesus, grab a hold of us when we are reluctant to serve others. You have shown us that helping brings gifts of grace to both recipient and giver. In sharing our burdens, they are lightened, we grow closer, and Christ joins us on the road. Amen.

STATION 4 ~ Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Collect Prayer:
God who is Mother, who weeps when her children are weeping. As we experience moments that feel barren may we remember you are always seeking ways to be birthed into the world in new ways. Amen

Reading: Luke 23: 27-31
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?'

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: O Gracious God your Son had the presence of mind to think of the suffering of others even as he was suffering; help us to reach past our own concerns to touch the lives of those in need, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

STATION 5 ~ Jesus Is Stripped



Collect Prayer:
Jesus of the flesh,
Naked you came from the womb and naked you were made for the cross.
May we always honour the integrity of the body.
We ask this for no other reason than our own dignity.
Amen.[2]

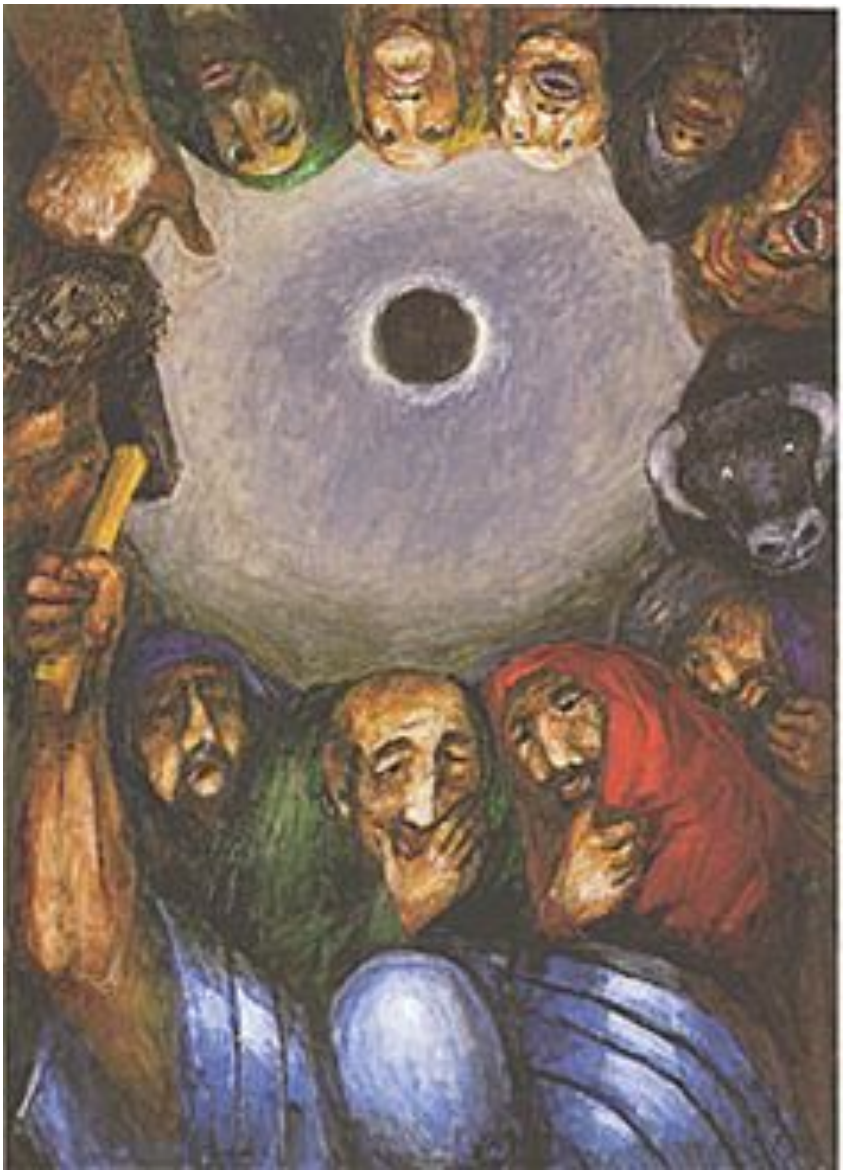
Reading: Mark 15:22-24
Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: Almighty God, your Son freely suffered humiliation, so that we might see might be at one with you; help us to work for the salvation of others, even if others humiliate us for it; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

[2] @Padraig O' Tauma in Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community
https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781848258686/daily-prayer-with-the-corrymeela-community

STATION 6 ~ Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross



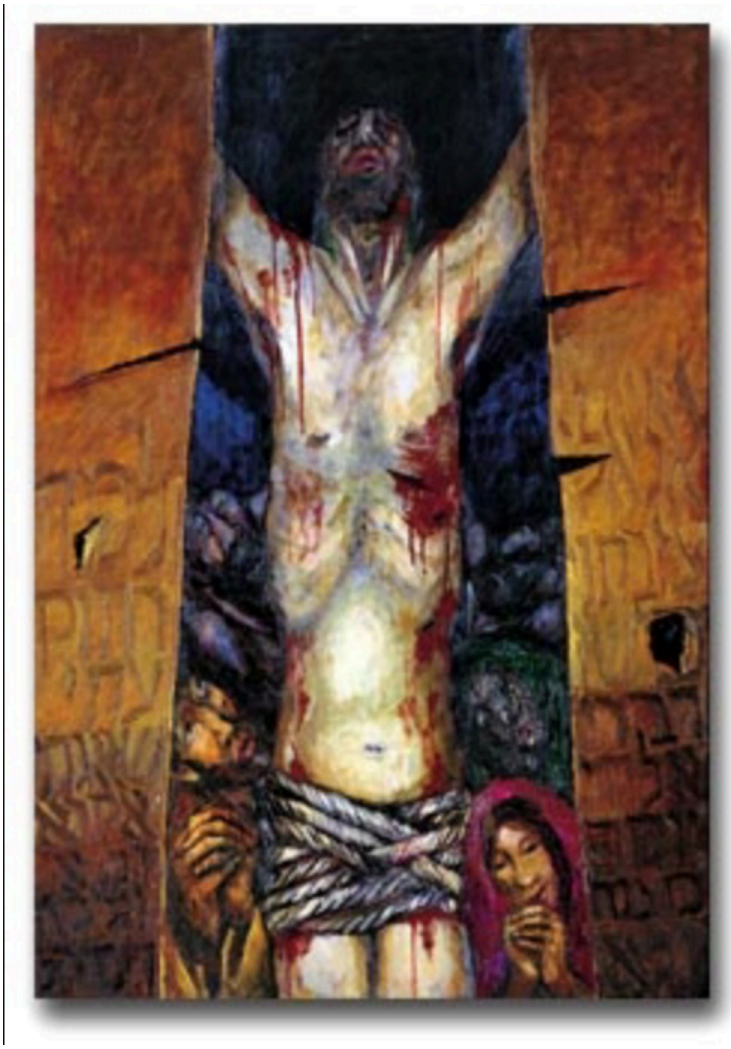
Collect Prayer:
Jesus of the cross,
You stretched yourself farther than any of us might find possible. May we stretch ourselves into new ways of being. May we welcome discomfort in the journey towards transformation. Amen.

Reading: Mark 15:25-32
It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you stretched out your arms on the hard wooden cross to embrace the entire world with your love; clothe me with your Holy Spirit, so that I can stretch out my hands in love for others, so that they can also know and love you and reach to you, knowing you are always willing to forgive and transform; I pray in your name, Amen.

STATION 7 ~ Jesus Is Crucified



Collect Prayer:
Jesus, our Lord of death,
You have gone where we
have not yet gone.
We honour your death with our thoughts, our words, our prayer, our worship. May we honour endings without fear and root ourselves in the hope of new beginnings. Amen.[3]

Reading: Luke 23:32-33; 39-43
Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

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.'

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, despite your suffering and your agony, you tended to the needs of others less worthy than you; help me to tend to the needs of others without regard to their worthiness, even in times of personal stress and adversity. I pray in your name, O Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

[3] @Padraig O' Tauma in Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781848258686/daily-prayer-with-the-corrymeela-community with edits by Rev. Monique Stone

STATION 8 ~ Jesus Is Buried



Collect Prayer:
Jesus, Jesus of the unexpected, for at least some of your life this was not how you imagined its end. Yet even at the end, you kept steady in your conviction. Jesus, keep us steady. Jesus, keep us steady. Because, Jesus, keep us steady. Amen.[4]

Reading: Luke 23:50-56
Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

A Time for Silence & Reflection

Closing Prayer: Almighty God, your Son was laid in a tomb in the garden, and rested on the Sabbath day; I have been buried with Him in baptism, let me find my perfect rest in Him as I await your resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

[4] @Padraig O' Tauma in Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community
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