

# “Stations of the Cross” – Live

For SONRise Service – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Readings are from “The Message”

## Welcome:

## Call To Worship:

**Eric:** Blessed be the name of the Lord our God, who redeems us from sin and death.

**People:** For us, and for the salvation of all, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

**Eric:** Blessed be the name of the Lord our God!

## Station 1: “The Upper Room”

**Narrator:** *Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Jesus got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.*

**Simon Peter:** “Master, are you going to wash my feet?”

**Jesus:** “**You don’t understand now what I’m doing, but it will be clear enough to you later.**”

**Peter:** “You’re not going to wash my feet—ever!”

**Jesus:** “**If I don’t wash you, you can’t be part of what I’m doing.**”

**Peter:** “Master, Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!”

**Jesus:** “**If you’ve had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you’re clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you’re clean. But not every one of you.**”

**Narrator:** *After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.*

**Jesus:** “**Do you understand what I have done to you? If I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it — and live a blessed life.**”

## Opening Prayer:

**O God,** you have searched the depths we cannot know, and touched what we cannot bear to name; may we so wait, enclosed in your darkness, that we are ready to encounter the terror of the dawn, with Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Station 2: “Jesus is Betrayed”

**Jesus:** “**There is one who ate bread at my table who will stab me in the back.** *(becomes visibly upset)* “**One of you is going to betray me.**”

**Narrator:** *The disciples looked around at one another, wondering who on earth he was talking about.*

**John:** “Master, who?”

**Jesus:** “**The one to whom I give this crust of bread after I’ve dipped it.**”

**Narrator:** *Jesus dipped the crust and gave it to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot.*

**Jesus:** “Do what you must. Do it and get it over with.”

**Narrator:** *Some disciples thought that since Judas was their treasurer, Jesus was telling him to buy what they needed for the Feast, or that he should give something to the poor. Judas, with the piece of bread, left. It was now dark.*

**Hymn:** VU 135 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand:  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within the wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burden of the day.

**Station 3:** “Peter Will Deny Jesus”

**Jesus:** “I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But where I go, you are not able to come.’

**Peter:** “Master, just where are you going?”

**Jesus:** answered, “You can’t now follow me where I’m going. You will follow later.”

**Peter:** “Master, why can’t I follow now? I’ll lay down my life for you!”

**Jesus:** “Really? You’ll lay down your life for me? The truth is that before the rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.”

**Prayer:**

Holy God, who has opened our ears to hear your Word and our lips to proclaim you truth: open our eyes this day to see in the cross the revelation of your love; through Jesus the Crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honour and praise, now and forever. Amen.

**Station 4:** “Jesus is the Way”

**Jesus:** You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. I am on my way to get a room ready for you. I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I’m taking.”

**Thomas:** “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”

**Jesus:** “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve even seen him!”

**Philip:** “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.”

**Jesus:** “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act. Believe in what you see – these good works. Get up. Let’s go. It’s time to leave here.”

**Hymn:** VU 135 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

2     Upon the cross of Jesus  
          my eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
          who suffered there for me;  
and from my smitten heart, with tears,  
          two wonders I confess,  
the wonder of redeeming love,  
          and my unworthiness.

**Station 5:** “Jesus Prays in the Garden”

**Narrator:** *Jesus and the disciples went to the Garden to pray. Jesus took Peter, James and John with him to pray and left the other disciples near the gate. Jesus told the three disciples to stay awake with him.*

**Jesus:** *(praying)* “**Father, it’s time. I’m returning to you. My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?”**”

**Narrator:** *When Jesus came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep.*

**Jesus:** “**Peter, can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there’s another part that’s as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire.**”

**Narrator:** *Jesus then left them a second time. Again he prayed,*

**Jesus:** “**My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I’m ready. Do it your way.**”

**Narrator:** *When Jesus came back, again he found them sound asleep. They simply couldn’t keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray. When he came back the next time...*

**Jesus:** “**Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, I am about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let’s get going! My betrayer is here.**”

**Hymn:** VU 144 “Were You There?”

1     Were you there in the garden after dark?  
      Were you there in the garden after dark?  
      Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
      Were you there in the garden after dark?

**Station 6:** “Jesus is Arrested”

**Narrator:** *Jesus left with his disciples towards the gate of the garden. Judas knew the place because Jesus and his disciples went there often. Judas led the soldiers to the garden. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords.*

**Jesus:** “**Who are you after?”**”

**Soldier: “Jesus the Nazarene.”**

**Jesus: “That’s me.”**

**Narrator:** *The soldiers were totally taken aback. Judas, stood out like a sore thumb.*

**Jesus: “Who are you after?”**

**Soldier: “Jesus the Nazarene.”**

**Jesus: “I told you, that’s me. I’m the one. So if it’s me you’re after, let these others go.”**

**Narrator:** *Just then Simon Peter, who was carrying a sword, pulled it from its sheath and struck the Chief Priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. Malchus was the servant’s name.*

**Jesus: (sternly) “Peter, put back your sword. Do you think for a minute I’m not going to drink this cup the Father gave me?”**

**Narrator:** *Jesus touched the Malchus’ ear and it was healed. Then the Roman soldiers seized Jesus and tied him up. They took him first to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the Chief Priest that year. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was known to the Chief Priest, and so he went in with Jesus to the Chief Priest’s courtyard. Peter had to stay outside. Then the other disciple went out, spoke to the doorkeeper, and got Peter in.*

**Hymn: VU 144 “Were You There?”**

2     Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord?  
       Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord?  
       Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
       Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord?

**Reflection: Andrew Gilliland**

Peter, always quick to act, takes out the sword he was carrying and strikes out against those who have come to arrest Jesus. In this moment Peter expresses great courage and loyalty towards Jesus but it is a small gesture with no chance of stopping or even delaying the coming events. With the soldiers of the Roman army present as well as the temple leaders, Pharisees and their own guards they easily outnumber Jesus and the disciples and the soldiers are trained for combat. As courageous of an act as this is from Peter for Jesus it is essentially all for nothing.

Jesus offers Peter a gentle rebuke for his actions because Jesus has no intention of trying to avoid what will happen next. If Jesus wanted to run and hide He could have. If Jesus wanted to raise up an army of people He could have. Jesus, if He wanted to, could have called down all the angels from Heaven to protect Him, but He doesn’t. Jesus is fully prepared for the coming events and even controls the situation of His arrest.

**Station 7: “Peter Denies Jesus”**

**Narrator:** *A young woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter...*

**Woman: “Aren’t you one of this man’s disciples?”**

**Peter: “No, I’m not.”**

**Narrator:** *The servants and police had made a fire because of the cold and were huddled there warming themselves. Peter stood with them, trying to get warm. One of the others at the fire asked...*

**Man:** “Aren’t you one of his disciples?”

**Peter:** “Not me.”

**Narrator:** *One of the Chief Priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said...*

**Servant:** “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?”

**Peter:** *(loudly)* “It was not me”!

**Narrator:** *Just then a rooster crowed. (Sound of Rooster crowing – 3X)*

**Hymn:** VU 144 “Were You There?”

3     Were you there when the cock began to crow?  
       Were you there when the cock began to crow?  
       Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
       Were you there when the cock began to crow?

**Station 8:** “Jesus’ Interrogation”

**Narrator:** *Annas interrogated Jesus regarding his disciples and his teaching.*

**Jesus:** “I’ve spoken openly in public. I’ve taught regularly in meeting places and the Temple, where the Jews all come together. Everything has been out in the open. I’ve said nothing in secret. So why are you treating me like a traitor? Question those who have been listening to me. They know well what I have said. My teachings have all been aboveboard.”

**Narrator:** *When Jesus said this, one of the policemen standing there slapped Jesus across the face...*

**Policeman:** “How dare you speak to the Chief Priest like that!”

**Jesus:** “If I’ve said something wrong, prove it. But if I’ve spoken the plain truth, why this slapping around?”

**Narrator:** *Then Annas sent Jesus, still tied up, to the Chief Priest Caiaphas.*

**Hymn:** VU 144 “Were You There?”

4     Were you there when they struck him in the face?  
       Were you there when they struck him in the face?  
       Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
       Were you there when they struck him in the face?

**Station 9:** “The King of The Jews”

**Narrator:** *Caiaphas had them take Jesus to the Roman governor’s palace. It was early morning. Pilate asked...*

**Pilate:** “What charge do you bring against this man?”

**Priests (2):** “If he hadn’t been doing something evil, do you think we’d be here bothering you?”

**Pilate:** "You take him. Judge him by your law."

**Priests (2):** "We're not allowed to kill anyone."

**Narrator:** *Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus.*

**Pilate:** "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?"

**Jesus:** "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?"

**Pilate:** "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?"

**Jesus:** "My kingdom doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king."

**Pilate:** "So, are you a king or not?"

**Jesus:** "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice."

**Pilate:** "What is truth?"

**Hymn:** VU 144 "Were You There?"

5      Were you there when they asked, "Are you a king"?  
      Were you there when they asked, "Are you a king"?  
      Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
      Were you there when they asked, "Are you a king"?

**Station 10:** "Release of Barabbas"

**Narrator:** *Then Pilate went back out to the Jews.*

**Pilate:** "I find nothing wrong in this man. It's your custom that I pardon one prisoner at Passover. Do you want me to pardon the 'King of the Jews'?"

**Priests (2):** "Not this one, but Barabbas the Jewish Freedom Fighter!"

**Hymn:** VU 144 "Were You There?"

6      Were you there when they chose to free a thief?  
      Were you there when they chose to free a thief?  
      Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
      Were you there when they chose to free a thief?

**Station 11:** "Crown of Thorns"

**Narrator:** *Pilate had Jesus whipped. The soldiers braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached Jesus...*

**Soldiers (2):** "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**Narrator:** *Then they greeted Jesus with slaps on his face. Pilate went back out again and said to the crowd...*

**Pilate:** "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime."

**Narrator:** *Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe.*

**Pilate:** “Here he is: the Man you call the King of the Jews.”

**Priests and Crowd:** *(shouting in a frenzy)* “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

**Pilate:** “You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him.”

**Priests:** “We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

**Narrator:** *When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus...*

**Pilate:** “Where did you come from?”

**Narrator:** *Jesus gave no answer.*

**Pilate:** “You won’t talk? Don’t you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to crucify you?”

**Jesus:** “You haven’t a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That’s why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault.”

**Narrator:** *Pilate tried his best to pardon Jesus, but the Jews shouted...*

**Priests and Crowd:** “If you pardon this man, you’re no friend of Caesar’s. Anyone setting himself up as ‘king’ defies Caesar.”

**Narrator:** *When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court. It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon.*

**Pilate:** “Here is your king.”

**Priests and Crowd:** “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!”

**Pilate:** “I am to crucify your king?”

**Priests (2):** “We have no king except Caesar.”

**Narrator:** *Pilate caved in. Pilate washed his hands and turned Jesus over to be crucified.*

**Hymn:** VU 144 “Were You There?”

7      Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify”?  
      Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify”?  
      Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
      Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify”?

**Station 12:** “The Crucifixion”

**Narrator:** *They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill, where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read: “Jesus the Nazarene, The king of the Jews”. Many of the Jews read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests objected...*

**Priests (2):** “Don’t write ‘The King of the Jews.’ Instead write, ‘This man said, “I am the King of the Jews.””

**Pilate:** “What I’ve written, I’ve written.”

**Narrator:** *When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other...*

**Soldier:** **“Let’s not tear it up. Let’s throw dice to see who gets it.”**

**Narrator:** *While the soldiers were looking rolling the dice, Jesus’ mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her...*

**Jesus:** **“Woman, here is your son.”**

**Narrator:** *Then to the disciple...*

**Jesus:** **“Here is your mother.”**

**Narrator:** *From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.*

**Jesus:** **“I’m thirsty.”**

**Narrator:** *A jug of sour wine was standing by. Someone put a sponge soaked with the wine on a javelin and lifted it to his mouth. After he took the wine, Jesus said...*

**Jesus:** **“It is finished!”**

**Narrator:** *Bowing his head, Jesus offered up his spirit. (short silence)*

*Since it was the day of Sabbath preparation, and so the bodies wouldn’t stay on the crosses over the Sabbath, the priests petitioned Pilate that prisoner’s legs be broken to speed death, and the bodies taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man crucified with Jesus, and then the other. When they got to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs. One of the soldiers stabbed him in the side with his spear. Blood and water gushed out.*

**Hymn:** VU 144 **“Were You There?”**

8     Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
       Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
       Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
       Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**Station 13:** **“Jesus’ Burial”**

**Narrator:** *Joseph of Arimathea who was secretly a disciple of Jesus, petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body.*

**Narrator:** *Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus’ body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it. The Soldiers rolled a huge heavy stone across the entrance of the tomb.*

**Hymn:** VU 144 **“Were You There?”**

9     Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they Laid Him in the Tomb?

### **Lord's Prayer:**

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who  
trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Station 14:** “Mary Magdalene Goes to the Tomb”

**Narrator:** *Early on that first Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath...*

**Mary M:** “They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.”

**Narrator:** *Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. The two disciples went back home.*

### **Station 15:** “Mary Sees Jesus”

**Narrator:** *But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head and the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been laid.*

**Angel:** “Woman, why do you weep?”

**Mary M:** “They took my Master, and I don’t know where they put him.”

**Narrator:** *After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.*

**Jesus:** “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?”

**Mary M:** “Sir, if you are the gardener and you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.”

**Jesus:** “Mary.”

**Mary:** “Rabboni!” - “Teacher!”

**Jesus:** “Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’”

**Narrator:** *Mary Magdalene ran back to the disciples, telling them the news...*

**Mary M:** “He is alive! I saw the Master!”

**Narrator:** *And she told them everything Jesus said to her.*

**Reflection: By Sharon Campbell Rayment**

The story of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus is a sacred story. Mary who was the first disciple to see the Risen Christ, the first disciple to see Christ and to know. Then she went back to the disciples back in the Upper Room where they were sitting, afraid. She told them, and they were still afraid, and they would not believe, and they still sat in fear. But she knew, she knew because he said her name. In saying her name, it woke within her the Spirit of her heart, and she knew – she knew, that Jesus has risen - has risen indeed, and is now with us again, in our hearts, in our minds and in our souls.

The day that Jesus came to the disciples and they saw for themselves, they went forth and shared the Good News that Mary the first disciple of the Risen Christ had shared with them.

Thanks be to God for this day! Hallelujah! Happy Easter my friends and God bless!

**Hymn: VU 155 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!