Stations of the Cross Family Scavenger Hunt 2020

Instructions:
These stations are meant to be used sometime during Holy Week. Feel free to use them on your schedule, it can be a few stations a day or all of the stations at once. If you are uncomfortable going on a walk for this activity you might go in your backyard or take a walk around your house. As you go through the stations, you can choose to have the same reader for all or take turns reading with any family members who can read.

As you go, take some pictures to share your walk with the church family. Post them to instagram or facebook with the hashtag: or email:

Here are a few things you might want to gather before starting this activity:

- A small cross, have each family member carry it for a station and then pass it to another family member
- Wipes or a small washcloth
- Something heavy
- Hammer, nail and small piece of wood (alternatively: pot and spoon)
- Bandaids
- Paper, colored pencils, crayons or markers
Before you begin your walk, whether it is all on the same day or divided up pray this prayer:

**Reader:** The Lord be with you.
**All:** And also with you.
**Reader:** Let us pray.
Dear Jesus, help us to walk in your steps today as we remember the sacrifice you made for us on the cross.  **Amen.**

**Reader:** Let us pray

**All:** *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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory for ever and ever._  **Amen.**

**Station 1:** Jesus is condemned

**Activity:** Before you leave your house, wash your hands.

**Reader:** He stands quietly in front of Pilate, the Roman Governor. People seem angry with him. Why? What has he done? I remember Jesus as good and kind. Why are all these people yelling, “Crucify him?” Pilate takes a small bowl of water and washes his hands. I wonder why he does that?

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
**All:** Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Station 2:** Jesus accepts his cross

**Activity:** Take your small cross and begin your walk. Find something along the way that looks like a cross and stop there. Hand the cross off to another family member.

**Bonus activity:** make your cross to carry with you out of something you have on hand (popsicle sticks, duct tape, etc. Get creative!)

**Reader:** He watches the soldiers bring out the cross for him to carry. It looks so heavy. How can one man carry it alone? But he puts the wood across his shoulders and bends over with the weight and pain. It hurts me to watch him hurt.
Reader:  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All:  *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

Station 3: Jesus falls for the first time

Activity:  look for someone who is on a bike or scooter and wearing a helmet or other protective gear. If you are in your yard or house find a bike, trike, scooter, or protective gear. When you find that stop and read the next station. Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader:  The weight of the cross is crushing him and Jesus stumbles. Somehow, he gets back up by himself. No one helps him. Can anyone help him?

Reader:  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All:  *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

Station 4: Jesus meets his mother

Activity:  Walk to the next house or the next natural stopping point (maybe the next cross shape you see on your walk). Stop and take turns giving each other a blessing. Make the sign of the cross on their forehead or and and say one of the following: “Jesus loves you and so do I” or “The Lord bless and keep you” or “You are a beloved child of God.” Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader:  Here is Mary of Nazareth, reaching out to her son. She looks so very sad to see Jesus like this. Why isn’t she angry at the people who are hurting him? Why can’t she stop them from doing this? My mother holds my hand very tightly.

Reader:  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All:  *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

Station 5: Simon of Cyrene carries the cross

Activity:  Look around and find something heavy in your house or on your walk. Take turns carrying it and see who can carry it the farthest. Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader:  The soldiers grab someone to help Jesus. The man looked angry at first, but now he seems almost happy to help. Who is this man? He doesn’t look like he even lives around here. I wonder if he knows Jesus. I wonder if he is only doing what the soldiers told him to.

Reader:  We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All:  *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*
Station 6: A woman wipes the face of Jesus

**Activity:** use wipes or a washcloth to take turns washing each other’s hands or feet. Hand the cross to another family member.

**Reader:** Look, a woman broke through the soldiers and got close to Jesus! She is wiping his face with a cloth. How did she have the courage to challenge the soldiers? Jesus thanks her; maybe she made him feel a little better. But how can he say “thank you” at a time like this?

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

Station 7: Jesus falls a second time

**Activity:** find a good place to sit and see who can get up from the ground without using their hands. Help any family member stand who needs a hand to get up. Hand the cross to another family member.

**Reader:** Even without the cross, Jesus can hardly walk. He is much weaker and falls to the ground again. I want to help him, but I can’t get past the soldiers like the woman did. I want to help Jesus! I want this awful thing to stop.

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

Station 8: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

**Activity:** Stop at a house that has a table of some sort or somewhere where people could gather outside (or find the next cross shape on your walk). Take a moment and talk about what friends you each want to gather with when social gathering is acceptable again. Hand the cross to another family member.

**Bonus activity:** when you get home write your friend(s) a note and send it to them or call/facetime them.

**Reader:** A group of women are crying out loud, walking along besides us. Jesus reaches out to comfort them. I don’t understand everything he says, but he is calm. How can he be so calm when he is about to die?

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*
Station 9: Jesus falls for the third time

Activity: Find a hill or stairs, take turns walking up the hill or stairs and see who can climb it the most times. Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader: We’ve been walking uphill for a while, and Jesus falls again here. He looks so very tired. The soldiers pull him off the ground and Jesus struggles to get up again. I have to look away. I don’t want to see anymore.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Activity: Return back to your house if you are still on the walk. Have each family member find a piece of clothing that they would be really sad to have taken away and show it to the family. If there is a story about that item of clothing share the story with your family. Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader: We’ve come to Golgotha, the place where the Romans crucify criminals. Jesus will die here. The soldiers take his clothes. They seem more interested in them than in him and they throw dice to see who gets his robe. Jesus waits.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Activity: Find a hammer and nail in your house. If you have something that you can drive a nail into like a small piece of wood, take turns using the hammer to hit the nail into the object. (If this isn’t possible, find something you can drum on like a wooden spoon on a kitchen pot). Listen to the sound you make. Hand the cross to another family member.

Reader: The sound of the hammer is a slow drum beat. I cannot see him because there are too many people in the way, but the sound will not go away.

Reader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Station 12: Jesus dies

Activity: light a candle (real or battery-powered). Turn off the other lights in the room you are in. Extinguish the candle and read the next reading in the dark if you
can (or use the candle to read and then extinguish it). Hand the cross to another family member.

**Reader:** Darkness settles over us, even though it’s the middle of the day. The earth is shaking. I am afraid. I feel like everyone here is afraid. Why is it so dark? I wonder what is happening.

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

**Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross**

**Activity:** Find the bandaids in your house. Put a bandaid on each family member. Place the cross in a place where everyone in the family will see it every day.

**Bonus activity:** write a prayer on a second bandaid and put it on the cross you carried with you on your walk and put the cross somewhere where you will see it each day until Easter.

**Reader:** It’s been a long time now, but it is over. Some of Jesus’s friends take his body down from the cross. They let Mary, his mother, hold him. I wonder if she remembers holding him when he was a baby. Everyone is very sad, but we have to move his body away before sundown. It is the law.

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*

**Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb**

**Activity:** Find some paper and markers, crayons, pens or colored pencils. Have each person write or draw a prayer for themselves or someone else. Put these prayers in a basket in front of your cross to show that you give them to God.

**Bonus activity:** decorate some hard-boiled eggs to eat on Easter Sunday or if you have the time bake these bread dolls as a reminder of Jesus in the tomb: https://karengriggsgill.weebly.com/tomie-de-paolas-grandmothers-bread-dolls.html

**Reader:** We bring his body to the garden of a man named Joseph. He is from Arimathea. He has a brand new tomb we can use for Jesus. It is a little room cut into the rock of the hill. We place his body in the room, all wrapped up in cloth, just like he was a baby. I am still confused. Who was this man, Jesus? Why did he have to die? Why do I feel like he died for me?

**Reader:** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*
After you finish the last station take some time to pray this short litany as a family. Just like the stations have one person be the reader and others the all or take turns.

Litany

Lord Jesus, as we remember how you died for us and rose again to bring us to new life, we ask for your strength to help us now.

For those times we hurt other people.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we don’t listen.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we take each other for granted.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we don’t reach out for love.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we are too scared to do what’s right.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we put other people down.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we react in hate and fear.  
Lord, have mercy.

For those times we don’t do our very best for you.  
Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, we ask for your help in all these things, that we may be able to put all our trust and faith in your great mercy, which you showed us by the sacrifice of your son, Jesus. We pray that we may always serve you with gladness and to the honor of your Name.  
Amen

Text developed over years with Cecelia S. Snyder (Director of Children’s Ministries at Grace Church, Alexandria for 20 years, ca 1985- 2006 and Montessori teacher for over 40 years) and Chrissie Crosby (erstwhile assistant for Children’s Ministries at Grace, MA in Biblical Interpretation, VTS 2014). Activities developed by Suzanna Green (Director of Children and Family Ministries at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church San Antonio, TX) along with a few words added to the readings.