



Good Friday Justice and Peace  
Stations of the Cross

Sponsored by the



**Franciscan**  
**Spirituality Center**

Dedicated to anyone seeking God, meaning and wholeness.

**We walk quietly from station to station and will sing this refrain after each prayer:**

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

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## **Our Path**

- Station 1 – St. Rose Convent (corner of Franciscan Way & Market St.)  
– A religious community devoted to peace and welcoming the immigrant
- Station 2 – Viterbo University – Clock Tower  
– Safety in schools and an end to gun violence
- Station 3 – St. Clare Health Mission and Coulee Recovery Center (916 Ferry St.)  
– Affordable, accessible healthcare and treatment options for all people
- Station 4 – Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (612 Division St.)  
– A Reconciling in Christ congregation offering a free weekly community meal
- Station 5 – Cameron Park (King and 5th Streets)  
– Healing of Divisions
- Station 6 – St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral (530 Main St)  
– Reverence for Life and an end to human trafficking
- Station 7 – Salvation Army (State and 8<sup>th</sup> St.)  
– Services to help the unsheltered community
- Station 8 – La Crosse County Jail (Vine and 4<sup>th</sup> St.)  
– Restorative justice, mental health and addiction care for offenders
- Station 9 – Riverside Park (near cannon on north side)  
– Full employment and supportive care for veterans
- Station 10 – Mississippi River (south end of Riverside Park)  
– Water protection and care of the earth, our common home

## **Station 1 – Nonviolence and Migrants**

### ***Jesus is condemned to death.***

Jesus had already suffered the violence of being whipped and crowned with thorns. Now he is condemned to the most violent death in his day – to be nailed and crucified on a cross.

In our day, as violence seems to rise on every side and people are forced to flee their homes, may we remember the path of non-violence, the path of justice, and the path of welcoming those who seek a home. We remember especially all the places of war in our world.

A reading from Rabbi Harold Kushner:

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,  
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.  
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness,  
so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.  
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

Let us pray:

In humility we ask you to hear our prayer and for an end to violence.

**All: For migrants and refugees in our world, may we see You in them.**

### **Prayer for Children in Immigration Detention**

We pray for the immigrant children who have died in U.S. detention camps:

**May their souls rest in peace,**

May their families find solace.

**May their memory move us not to peace but to outrage,**

Then to advocacy and action.

**We pray for the children still in detention camps, confused, afraid, longing for some security,**

Longing for family to console them.

**May we recognize them as our children, needing our love, our care and protection.**

May we be present to their suffering, and may it move us to active concern

**So we can work toward the day no children are detained but rather welcomed into our communities,**

Welcomed as family to our tables.

**In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

- Jane Deren, Ph.D., Education for Justice

<http://bit.ly/CatholicAction4ImmigrantChildren>

## Station 2 – Safety in Schools



### *Jesus meets his mother.*

Jesus is bruised. Jesus is hurting. He is walking to his death. Suddenly, he looks up and sees his mother. She sees him suffering, and she suffers with her child.

God said, “It is not good for humans to be alone,” and created the first family. In the family we experience God’s unconditional love. We practice nourishing both body and spirit, just as Jesus taught people and also tended to their hunger and health. Most of all, families mirror the forgiveness of God. We accept one another through the smallest and biggest of mistakes.

~Dr. Doris Donnelly

Let us pray:

We pray for school staff, parents and students who face new challenges every year. Give them strength, courage and patience as they continue the work of learning through all these transitions. Grant them resilience and rest, safety and peace.

We weep for those who suffer because of violence at home or in their community. We mourn for the lives taken due to mass shootings and other acts of violence.

We pray for our teachers, administrators and school boards; mentors in after-school programs; elected leaders and all those working on behalf of education and school safety. May they recognize the dignity and worth of every student. May they continue to promote prevention and take seriously their responsibility to protect all our children.

Good and gracious God who loves and delights in all people,

**All: We stand in awe before You,**

Knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth.

**All: Is the spark of Your divine life.**

We place our hopes in you that you will give us courage to do the work that will ensure all children are safe.

**All: May all people live in peace. Amen.**

### Station 3 - Access to Affordable Treatment Options



*Jesus is made to carry his cross.*

Jesus lifts his arms to embrace his cross. He compassionately embraces all of us who suffer pain of some kind. We stand with those who suffer from sickness and addiction, but are denied the necessary medical resources.

Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Second National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights in 1966, said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane."

Let us pray:

God of the suffering servant, God of the Spirit made flesh, we pray for those millions who fall beyond the embrace of our medical care. We also hold in our hearts all those who suffer from mental illness and addiction. May we receive the grace to recognize Jesus in those whose minds and bodies are hurting and support them in their basic right to medical and recovery care.

We pray for those who are able to access medical care and yet still suffer. We pray for all medical workers, first responders, nursing home staff, and all those who are working around the clock to provide healing and care. We especially lift up the staff of our local hospitals, the St. Clare Health Mission, and the Coulee Recovery Center. We thank you for their knowledge and skills and ask that you keep them safe.

May the gift of healing be available without discrimination. Assist us as we strive to make health choices available to all.

**All: We stand with those who suffer from sickness and addiction but are denied the vast medical resources available in our city.**

May we open our eyes to compassionately see your suffering.

**All: We pray for the willingness to walk with each other in search of healing.**

Let us take up our crosses and follow you, Lord Jesus.

**All: By doing so we share in the liberation of the world.**

## Station 4 – Hunger and Inclusivity



### *Jesus falls.*

Jesus suffered so much before his death. The burden of physical suffering is overwhelming. Jesus, you continue to suffer in your body, for we are the body of Christ.

Jesus, when you lived among us you taught us to pray. As we say, “Give us today our daily bread,” we make that prayer also for the many adults and children who go hungry every day. You fed the hungry.

Inspire us to follow your example, sharing what we have with those who have less. You came that we could have life and have it to the full. Our prayer is that this might be true for all.

Caritas Australia

We pray for adults and children in our community who suffer from poverty and hunger.

**All: Especially those who are suffering economic hardship and food insecurity.**

We pray for the many generous people in the Coulee Region who donate funds, time and food to food pantries.

**All: We pray for those who work for systemic change and inclusion.**

We pray for those who provide essential food, supplies and services.

**All: At grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, banks, daycares, and all other places that help keep us secure in our well-being.**

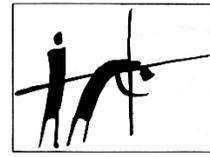
For those who experience discrimination, rejection, or violence due to racism, sexism, sexual orientation, gender identity and bias of any kind.

**All: Enfold them in your gentle love and teach us your ways of understanding and mercy.**

As we join together in prayer, give us the strength and courage to live simply, love tenderly and give generously.

**All: To help care for all your family.**

## Station 5 – Healing of Divisions



*Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.*

Simon, a bystander who happened to be in Jerusalem for the Passover holiday, did not know the man carrying a cross to the place of his execution. The prisoner could be a common criminal, or perhaps he was condemned for his political activities. Even so, Simon stepped in to do what he could to help the suffering man.

Simon did not know that on the night before his arrest, the prisoner prayed for his followers. He included in his prayers those of us who would follow him in the future. Jesus knew there would be hard times and hard disagreements, and he prayed that we would be able to remain united.

Jesus, we confess that in the heat of political, religious, and cultural wars, we have struggled to honor your last wish. We have traded insult for insult, an eye for an eye. We have become divided.

O God, we are one with you.

**All: You have made us one with you.**

You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.

**All: Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts.**

Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection.

~Thomas Merton

Our hardness of hearts has made us strangers to each other and has kept us from finding our common home in you.

**All: Give us a blessing so that our words and actions be one in unity, and that we be able to listen to each other; in so doing, we shall with good heart walk hand in hand to face the future.**

~Frank Fools Crow of the Lakota Nation

## Station 6 - Reverence for Life



### *Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.*

Moved by compassion, a woman in the crowd of bystanders feels compelled to risk wiping the face of the condemned man. From now on, she will see the image of the Suffering Servant every time she looks at that cloth.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Pope Francis says,

**All: “How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry: ‘Where is your brother? Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Let us not look the other way.’”**

We pray for an end to trafficking in human beings and all forms of exploitation, particularly prostitution, forced labor, the harvesting of human organs, the use of children as drug dealers and in the production of pornographic material.

Help us to recognize the image and likeness of Christ in every human being, from conception through sickness and old age, and to support their God-given right to life.

**All: Loving God, we seek your divine protection  
for all those threatened by the loss  
of their dignity, liberty and life.**

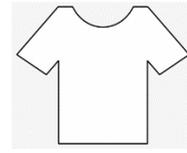
For it was You who formed our inward being.  
You knit us together in our mother’s womb.  
Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made.

~Ps 139:13-14

**All: Help us to recognize You  
in the powerless and the vulnerable.**

Restore their dignity  
and provide them with a new beginning.  
Show us how we might be protectors of life,  
from cradle to grave.

**Station 7 – Unsheltered**  
***Jesus is stripped of his clothes.***



Jesus, as you were stripped of your dignity, so too are some families being stripped of their dignity. They stand naked, stripped of their ability to feed and shelter themselves and their families. Jesus stands with them in their discouragement, fear and powerlessness.

Many who have always felt secure now teeter on the edge of homelessness because of unemployment and financial insecurity. Let us also pray for adults and children who struggle daily to find shelter. Open our eyes, Lord, to the needs of the invisible unsheltered and those threatened by violence in our communities.

Let us pray for all those individuals and organizations working to improve substandard housing, to develop more affordable housing, and to provide for our brothers and sisters without shelter. With them, we pray for an end to homelessness in our community.

Protect your children from all harm and keep them from despair.

**All: Open the hearts and eyes of those of us with blessings to share.**

Unite our voices in a call for justice  
So that no one need ever lay down for the night.

**All: On a wooden park bench because he has no home . . .**

So that no parent needs ever tuck their children into the backseat of her car

**All: Because she has no home . . .**

So that all those who wander and all those who are in need.

**All: Find the shelter and the peace they seek.**

Remind us, O God, that we cannot rest fully secure in our homes each night.

**All: Until all your children are, at last, home.**

~Rabbi Andrea Goldstein  
Congregation Shaar Emeth, Creve Couer, MO

## Station 8 – Restorative Justice, Care of Offenders



### *Jesus is nailed to the cross.*

In the supreme act of surrendering, Jesus opened the palms of his hands to be nailed to his cross. The one who pounded the nails into your hands, Jesus, did not recognize you.

When God chose to take on human flesh, he did not come as a priest or a monk, a king or a general, a poet or a philosopher. Instead, he became a death row prisoner, a condemned criminal executed alongside thieves.

Jesus said, "I was sent to proclaim release to the captives" [Luke 4:18]. We live in a country that incarcerates more human beings than anywhere on earth. We mourn this tragedy.

We mourn that we have made vengeance our public policy, adding violence to violence. We mourn the expansion of our jails and prisons.

We pray for the health and safety of those who work in jails and prisons, and those living in the crowded conditions of incarceration.

Jesus, you came to reconcile us to yourself.

**All: Help us to move from retribution - an "eye for an eye" - to restoration.**

In defending the public order and protecting the safety of people,

**All: May we also work to redeem the offender's brokenness.**

Help us to free all prisoners, Lord Jesus,

**All: By helping them to attain wholeness in mind and body,**

So that they may repair the harm that they have done.

**All: And be restored to a productive life.**



## **Station 9 – Care for Veterans**

### ***Jesus dies on the cross.***

In the hours he hangs in agony on the cross, Jesus attends to last things. He pardons his murderers, consoles the good thief, and asks his beloved disciple to care for his mother. His mission of love has been accomplished. He bows his head and gives up his spirit to God.

Jesus said, “No greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” [John 15:13]. We remember those who have sacrificed for us through military service, even to the point of laying down their lives, and we pray:

Help us to recognize the service and needs of veterans, those currently serving, and their loved ones. Give our elected leaders the moral courage to advocate for our service members.

God of compassion,  
God of dignity and strength,  
Watch over the veterans of the United States  
In recognition of their loyal service to our nation.

Bless them with wholeness and love.  
Shelter them.  
Heal their wounds,  
comfort their hearts.  
Grant them peace.

For those who did not make it home . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who were wounded . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who carry their scars on the inside . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

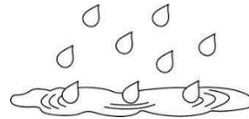
For those seeking employment . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are without a permanent home . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

For those struggling with loneliness or depression . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

For the spouses, families and friends of our veterans . . . **Lord, have mercy.**

## Station 10 – Water



### ***The Resurrection: New Life***

At daybreak on the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene goes to his tomb in the garden. She has come full of grief and aching loss. With astonishment, Mary sees through her tears that the tomb is empty. Turning quickly, she sees a man she thinks is the gardener. Suddenly, understanding floods through her. It is Jesus! He is risen!

Jesus shows us the way, from death to new life. Where there is water, there is life. And so we pray,

Creator God,  
whose Spirit moved over the face of the waters,  
who gathers the seas into their places,  
and directs the courses of the rivers,  
who sends rain upon the earth  
that it should bring forth life:

**All: We praise you for the gift of water.**

The rain that falls on all, rich and poor alike, reminds us that creation is a gift entrusted to our care. Water is the earth's most abundant resource, yet so many are without access to drinkable water. We are not immune to the problem of contaminated water in our community, as we struggle to cope with the improper use of chemicals in the environment.

For the times we have failed to recognize our relationship with water:

**All: Forgive us.**

Have not used water wisely.

**All: Forgive us.**

Have not called others to awareness.

**All: Forgive us.**

Have thoughtlessly polluted rather than protected our water sources.

**All: Forgive us.**

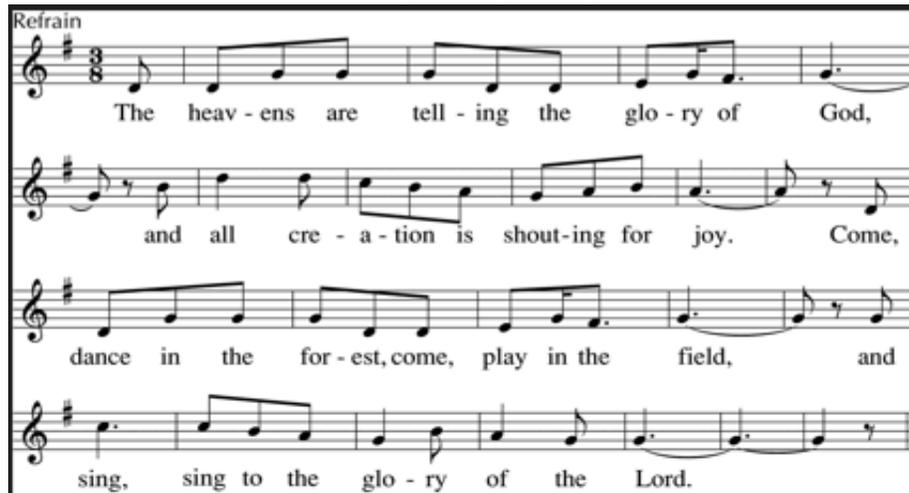
And have sought to control access to water, depriving others of life.

**All: Forgive us. Amen.**

All: Sing verses 1 and 3

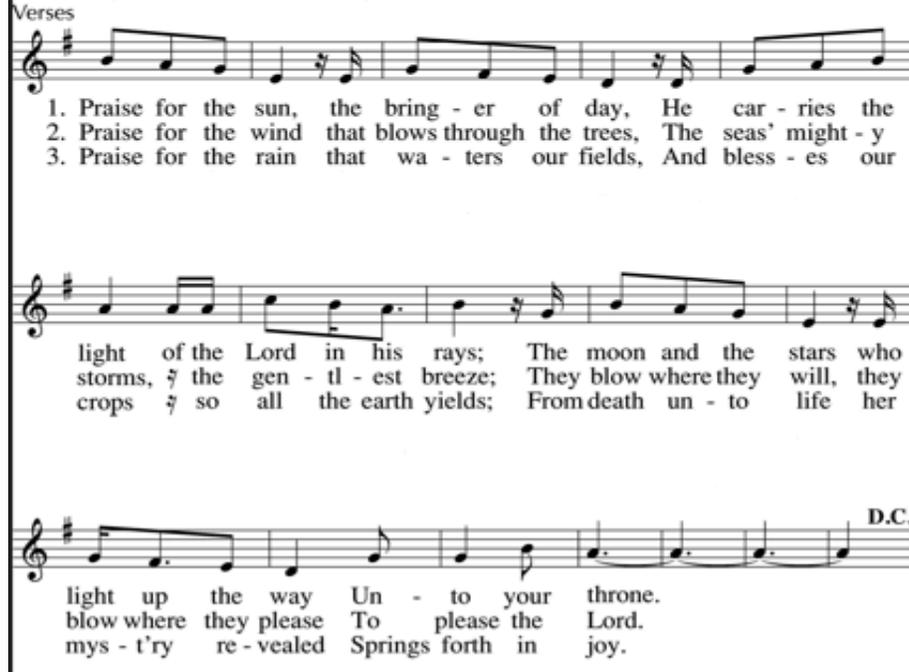
*Canticle of the Sun*  
Music by Marty Haugen

Refrain



The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,  
and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. Come,  
dance in the for - est, come, play in the field, and  
sing, sing to the glo - ry of the Lord.

Verses



1. Praise for the sun, the bring - er of day, He car - ries the  
2. Praise for the wind that blows through the trees, The seas' might - y  
3. Praise for the rain that wa - ters our fields, And bless - es our  
light of the Lord in his rays; The moon and the stars who  
storms, & the gen - tl - est breeze; They blow where they will, they  
crops & so all the earth yields; From death un - to life her

D.C.

light up the way Un - to your throne.  
blow where they please To please the Lord.  
mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs forth in joy.

Text: *Aleluya, omnipotente bon Signore*; St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226; adapt. by Marty Haugen, b.1950  
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
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*Let us resolve  
to make this week holy  
by sharing holy peace and joy  
with the needy,  
the alienated,  
the lonely  
the sick and afflicted,  
the untouchable.*

Thea Bowman, FSPA  
Servant of God