

## STATION 1 – HOPES AND DREAMS

Try to imagine what it was like on Palm Sunday – the crowds, the cheering, the palm branches carpeting the road, being waved in the air:



Think about the disciples. How would they feel about what was happening that morning? What hopes and dreams might they have had?

Think about the crowds. Why were they there? What were their feelings? What were the common hopes and dreams of what would happen when the Messiah came?

Think about Jesus. What was true in what was being said about Jesus? Why did he not reject the praise of the crowds as the Pharisees asked him to do? What did he know that led to his tears?

Think about the hopes and dreams of everyone there on that Palm Sunday. How did Jesus fulfill hopes and dreams in a way beyond their expectations?

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Look at the cross at the end of the road. Think about the way that for Jesus, that cross had always been the goal of the journey to Jerusalem.

Think about your hopes and dreams and the way that Jesus can shape them in new ways.

**Reflect on the words: Sometimes they strewed his way, and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day, hosannas to their King, Then, 'Crucify!' is all their breath, and for his death they thirst**

### **Luke 19.28-44**

#### **Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

They replied, "The Lord needs it."

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

## STATION 2 – SERVANT KING

Look at the display about Jesus washing the disciples' feet. What does it feel like to have someone else wash you?



Think about Jesus. What did he know was going to happen? Why did he wash the disciples' feet?

What did that washing symbolise about his relationship to them? How did it mirror what he was about to do for them on the cross?

Think about Simon Peter. Why did he react as he did? How would you have reacted? Why?

Think about the disciples. How do you think they felt? How would they respond to words about Jesus being betrayed?

What lesson did Jesus want them to learn from what he did to them?

Think about the Servant King. How is the way of Jesus different from that of the world?

Look at the jug, the basin, the towel. Think about Jesus' love for you and how he comes to serve you in your need. Think about how you are called to serve others.

**Reflect on the words: This is our God, the Servant King he calls us now to follow him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.**

### **John 13.1-20 - Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.

Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

## STATION 3 – REMEMBER ME – THE LAST SUPPER

Look at the display about the Last Supper. What is it like to share a special meal with a group of friends?



Think about the disciples. Why would it be important to them to eat the Passover meal together? How did they respond to Jesus' words about his betrayal? How might their mood have changed as the meal progressed?

Think about Judas. What does Jesus say about the one who would betray him? What would it feel like for Judas to be so out of tune with the rest of the company at the meal? How are we tempted to betray Jesus?

Think about Jesus. How was Jesus preparing them for what lay ahead by his words and actions? What do we learn about the reason for his dying? How does it change our lives?

Think about the bread and wine. How do they speak to us about being fed and forgiven by Jesus? Why do we need to remember Jesus? How does receiving Communion strengthen you?

Look at the table and think about the privilege of being seated as a disciple at the Lord's Supper as a guest of Jesus.

**Reflect on the words: Broken for me, broken for you, the body of Jesus broken for you. Come to my table and with me dine, eat of my body, drink of my wine.**

### Luke 19.28-44 The Last Supper

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

## STATION 4 – ALONE – THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Imagine being in a Middle Eastern garden at night. Think about the sights, sounds and smell. How do you feel?



Think about Peter, James and John. What does Jesus want from them as they go to pray? Why do they fail to do what he asks? Why in the end do all the disciples flee? What prevents us being faithful in prayer and standing with Jesus?

Think about Jesus. What emotions does he experience in the garden? What was the task represented by the cup which he was facing? How does he show his resolve as the crowds come to arrest him?

Think about Judas and the crowds. Why was there such a well-armed, large crowd? How does Jesus challenge them? Why do they not meet resistance from Jesus?

Think about Jesus alone as he prayed, alone as he is taken away captive. What is he facing that only he can do? Look at the dark empty garden and reflect on Jesus all alone. Think about the path he was willing to tread for you.

**Reflect on the words: There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin; he only could unlock the gates of heaven and let us in**

### **Matthew 26.36-56 - Gethsemane**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

## STATION 5 – SHARING OUR SORROWS – THE CRUCIFIXION

Look at the cross and the symbols surrounding it. Does the cross attract you or worry you?



Think about the crowds.

Why did they taunt Jesus? Why were they wrong to think that to be the King of Israel, Jesus had to come down from the cross?

Think about Jesus. What was he experiencing? How does he face his suffering? What happens as he dies? What do you think is the significance of that?

Think about the attitude of the soldiers as Jesus was crucified and the centurion's response afterwards. What is different about them? What could have made the centurion respond as he did? How do you respond to the death of Jesus?

Think about the cross. Why do we celebrate Christ's death on Good Friday not Bad Friday or Sad Friday? How can the death of Jesus be something to celebrate?

Look at the cross and the red robe. What does it symbolise for you?

How should you respond to Christ's death?

**Reflect on the words: Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small, love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

### Mark 15.21-41 - The Crucifixion of Jesus

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

## STATION 6 – RESURRECTION – THE EMPTY TOMB

Look at the empty tomb. Think about going to visit the grave of someone you love. How would you feel to find it empty?



Think about Mary Magdalene. What were her emotions at the various stages in this story - going to the tomb, meeting the angels, talking to Jesus? How do these encounters change her? How does encounter with Jesus make us different?

Think about Simon Peter and the other disciple. They both ran to the tomb but what was different in their responses? What was the significance of the wrappings left in the tomb? What did it mean for John to 'believe'? How does faith in Jesus need to 'click' for people?

Think about the angels. What does the presence of angels at an event signify? How do they help Mary?

Think about Jesus. What do we learn about Jesus from his attitude to Mary? What do we learn about him from his words? Look at the empty tomb and the symbols around it. What does it mean for you that the tomb is empty and that Jesus is alive?

**Reflect on the words:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy  
deathless love: bring us safe through Jordan to  
thy home above. Thine be the glory, risen,  
conquering Son, endless is the victory thou  
o'er death hast won.**

### **John 20.1-18 - The Empty Tomb**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.