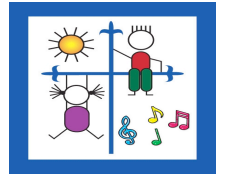




CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



IN A TIME OF SEPARATION

Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community

Welcome to this virtual stations of the cross. I am Mother Diana, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge NJ.

We usually walk this stations of the cross in our community, and nail each of the images you will see in this service onto the large cross we carry with us. Above each image we nail are the words, we remember them. However, given the pandemic, we will still remember them, the Christ crucified today, through this virtual Stations of the Cross.

I invite you to follow along, and join in on the parts written in bold. Let us begin.

This is a service of Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge. This bulletin contains graphic images that some may find disturbing. We endeavored to only use what was in the public domain.

Opening Devotions

In the Name of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

**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.**

Lord, when was it that ...

I saw you hungry and gave you food?

I saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?

I saw you a stranger and welcomed you?

I saw you sick and took care of you?

I saw you in prison and visited you?

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Let us pray.

God you created me and call me to be in this world, part of your creative force. In Christ you teach me the way of salvation. Help me to be transformed, utterly and completely changed, that I may live radically to transform myself and this broken world. Send your Spirit upon me that I might be an instrument of your peace. Amen.

First Station – Jesus is condemned to death

We remember all the children and adults killed in what should be a place of safety and learning – our schools - from Columbine to Newtown to Parkland, and all the other schools permanently scarred by violence. We remember the slaughtered and the pained – the families ripped apart – and the fear left in the wake.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation; and they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him to Pilate. And they all condemned him and said, “He deserves to die.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.



We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray for all the children, teachers, school administrators, and their families lost to gun violence in our schools. (*Silence*) Help us, we pray to end the slaughter of children, to replace the lust for weapons of war with the desire for safety and peace for the ones you called to your side. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Transform me

That I might transform the world.

Second Station – Jesus carries his Cross

We remember men of color killed by those who are charged with protecting us – Philando Castile, Alton Stirling, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice (who was only a child), Amadou Diallo, Walter Scott, Stephon Clark, and so many more. We name them, and we remember them and their families.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter; and like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.



We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our bigotry and hate, our silence in the face of the slaughter of innocents, especially people of color, and our failure to stand for justice for all your children. *(Silence)* Help us to work for a future where all may live without fear, and where we respect the dignity of every human being. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
That I might transform the world.**

Third Station – Jesus falls the first time

We remember gay men and women and the transgendered among us who have been abused, oppressed, and killed – Matthew Shepherd, Harvey Milk, Sten Fenrich, Sakia Gunn, Chrissy Lee Polis, all those murdered in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, and many others. We remember them and those who live in fear in the shadows.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.



Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our silence in the face of abuse and violence done against our LGBT brothers and sisters, and our failure to stand for justice for all your children. *(Silence)* Help us to break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, one day, people of all cultures, conditions, languages, genders, and sexual orientations, may live in peace and love with one another. **Amen.**

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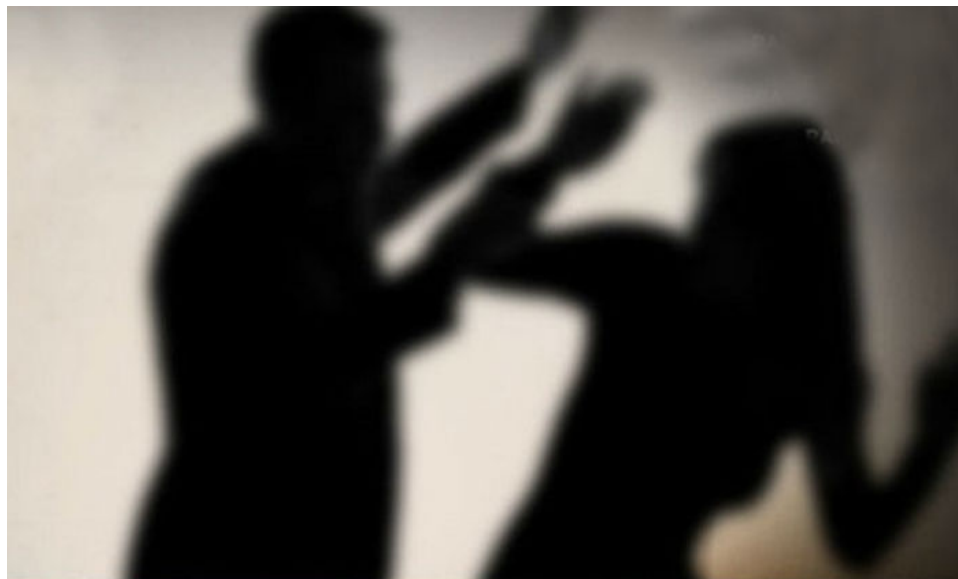
Fourth Station – Jesus meets his afflicted mother

We remember women who are beaten, raped, marginalized, and killed – from Malala Yousafala, to Rachel Renee Duncan, we remember the women who are victimized, and those trafficked – the modern day scourge of slavery. We remember too the 50 women on average that are shot to death every month in the US alone, and all those who are injured.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What likeness can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. God will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.



We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our misogyny and sexism, the patriarchy of our church, and our willingness to turn aside from looking at the violence done to women and girls. *(Silence)* Help us to work for a future where women and girls may see themselves as created in Your image, where all may live in freedom, that all may live without fear. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
That I might transform the world.**

Fifth Station – The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

We remember those who were gunned down while gathered together in your name – Mother Emmanuel and Sutherland Springs, Archbishop Oscar Romeo and the Rev. Mary Marguerite-Kohn. We remember these brothers and sisters in Christ who were crucified in the shadow of your own cross.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross to carry it behind Jesus. “If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our silence in the wake of unspeakable violence – where sanctuaries have become unsafe, and where terror looms in sacred space. *(Silence)* Help us to step boldly forward without fear to restore our churches to be beacons of hope, light, and peace. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
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That I might transform the world.**

Sixth Station – A woman wipes the face of Jesus

We remember the victims of mass shootings – Aurora and Las Vegas, San Bernadino and Killeen. We remember the fear they felt, the pain of the wounded, the grief of the families left behind.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our willingness to value guns over people – to produce, distribute, and profit from the sale of assault weapons capable of mass murder. *(Silence)* Help us to be empowered by your Spirit to reverse the conditions that produce young men and women who are driven to resort to violence and destructive behavior, and to create a world where weapons of war are no more, that our towns and cities may one day be places of love and peace. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
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That I might transform the world.**



Seventh Station – Jesus falls for a second time

We remember the victims of bombings – Austin and Oklahoma City, the Boston Marathon and Birmingham. We remember the fear and distrust left behind, and the grief of the injured and pained.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Surely he has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to their own way; and God has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.



Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our propensity for violence – in our hearts, and in our streets. *(Silence)* Help us to learn to live together and to try to understand each other even though we may seem very different from each other. Remind us when we forget, that we are all your children who share this earthly home. Help us to live in peace and harmony. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Eighth Station – Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

We remember the victims of terror, the brutal and horrific neo-Nazi hate on display in Charlottesville and throughout our land, the bombings of planes and buildings, the use of cars and trucks to mow down pedestrians, the torching of crosses or carrying torches with shouts of hate to instill fear. We remember our Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, and Jewish neighbors who have been shot, bombed, beaten, and terrorized with threats and vandalism, often at the hands of those who claim to follow Christ. We lament this twisted perversion of our faith, and grieve the horror done in Christ's name throughout the centuries into today.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

There followed after Jesus a great multitude of the people, and among them were women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.



Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our propensity to answer your love with hate, to neglect your commandment to love one another, and our willingness to forget (or ignore) that you have many peoples of your creation who speak and hear you in differing ways. *(Silence)* Help us to stand for justice and peace for all you call your own, for they are our sisters and brothers. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
That I might transform the world.**

Ninth Station – Jesus falls for a third time

We remember wars that are ravaging our world, leaving in its wake dead men, women, and children on all sides – combatant and civilian. We remember them, and the devastation left behind wherever we wage war against other children of God.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And they divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill the scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.”



We live in a culture of violence.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament ability to kill, to wage war, to ravage the earth. *(Silence)* Help us to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
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Tenth Station – Jesus is stripped of his garments

We remember the animals that are extinct through our neglect and abuse. We remember the earth and the ways we have ravaged and destroyed it.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

I am the one who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. He has besieged me and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. “Remember, O Lord, my affliction and bitterness, the wormwood and the gall!”



We have destroyed what you entrusted to us.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross as a way of life and peace.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament our destruction of all that you entrusted to our care, and our silence and complicity with poachers who destroy animals into extinction for profit. *(Silence)*

Help us to remember that in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us co-workers in your creation. Help us to love and nurture the animals, and care for their habitats, that in doing so, we may remember that it is all your handiwork. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Eleventh Station – Jesus is nailed to the Cross

We remember the poor and the homeless, who wait in darkness

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus between them. And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was numbered with the transgressors.”



We have turned our back on you.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross to find our way home.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament that we did not clothe the naked, feed the hungry, or give drink to those who thirsted – we refused to see them. *(Silence)* Help us to not only see them in our midst, but seek them out on the margins, knowing that in the web of life, all of creation is connected, and what happens to the lost and the least of these is the concern of all of us. **Amen.**

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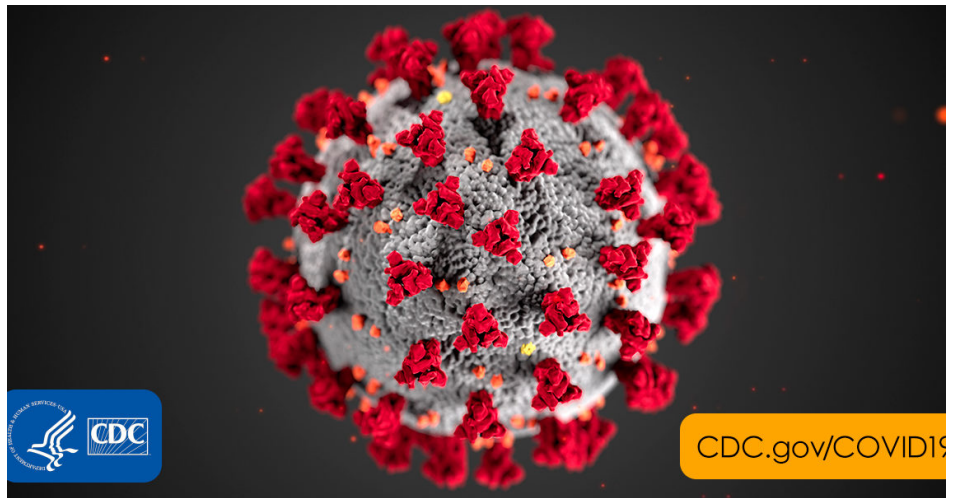
Twelfth Station – Jesus dies on the Cross

We remember the sick – mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually – among us. We remember the addicted, those without healthcare, and those who wait for help. And most especially in this time of pandemic, we remember all those who suffer, the families who are separated from those they love, and the first responders and healthcare workers who put their lives on the line to care for others.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished!” And then, crying with a loud voice, he said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And he bowed his head, and handed over his spirit. *(Silence)*



We have turned our back on you.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross to find our way home.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament that we did not visit the sick – we refused to see them. *(Silence)*
Help us to work to heal and comfort those who are broken in body or spirit, loving them as you loved us. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
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Thirteenth Station – The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

We remember all those languishing in prison. We remember too that the prisons have become the latest tool of oppression against people of color.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is in tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. “Do not call me Naomi (which means Pleasant), call me Mara (which means Bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”



We have turned our back on you.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross to find our way home.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament that we did not visit the imprisoned – we refused to see them. (*Silence*) Help us to rid ourselves of the systemic racism, of our willingness to imprison unjustly, and to work toward a world in which everyone is treated with the same respect, love, and opportunity. **Amen.**

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
That I might transform the world.**

Fourteenth Station – Jesus is laid in the tomb

We remember the stranger among us – the immigrant and the refugee – the ones you commanded us to welcome. We remember the darkness in which they must hide, the fear in which they live, the families torn apart.

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.



We have turned our back on your Word.

We open ourselves to the journey of the cross to find our way home.

Let us pray.

God our Creator, we lament that we did not welcome the stranger. *(Silence)* Help us to see you open our doors and welcome them, as you commanded, and to fight the injustices that tear children from their parents arms, and to tear down the walls of hate and build bridges of love.

Amen.

**Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Transform me
That I might transform the world.**

Closing Liturgy

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

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Gracious God, you have heard our cries for your life giving and healing Spirit to come upon us. We offer our prayers of repentance, and our desire for forgiveness, as we offer ourselves to your hope and your reconciling Word.

Jesus, you spoke with passion, you acted without fear, and we remember. Help us when we have to speak out, to speak the truth and to speak without malice. Help us to speak out against violence in all its forms, and to be a witness to your love. Purify our hearts and grant us zeal in your service, that we may be pastors and prophets for peace, and see you in the least of these. All this we ask in your name. **Amen.**

Solemn Prayer Over The People

May God make you a prophet for justice;

May God make you a pastor of loving kindness;

And may you all walk humbly with your God, who calls you to love and to serve. **Amen.**