

STATIONS IN THE STREET

A special Stations of the Cross display
by Artist Scott Erickson

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
relcmedia.org

Welcome to Stations in the Street

Welcome to the Reformation Lent Prayer Path featuring Scott Erikson's *Stations in the Street*. We hope that this journey through the prayer path will be a meaningful part of your Lenten journey.

This booklet contains the scripture inspiration and brief meditations for each station from the artist. You are welcome to take this booklet home with you to continue your reflection on the images and the story of Christ's death and resurrection.

For more information about opportunities at Reformation this Lent, please visit relcmedia.org/lent

Statement from the Artist, Scott Erickson:

The Stations of the Cross began as a remembrance that pilgrims had when they were retracing Jesus' final steps in Jerusalem up to the hill where He was crucified. Wanting to share that practice and experience with people who couldn't make the trip to Jerusalem, they created local stations of meditation that became in itself a tradition. You can find this tradition on the inside of many churches still today.

This journey to the cross is not only a meditation of Jesus accomplishing what He came to do - the redemption of humanity through His own willful sacrifice - but it's also a contemplation of Jesus silently participating in some of the worst aspects of being human. We see Him being tempted to give up. Being betrayed by a friend. Being convicted in an unjust political system. Physical pain. Mockery. Public humiliation. Broken family relationships. And one of our greatest fears... having to die. These are all aspects of human life that He was not insulated from. In fact, on the cross He quotes King David saying "My God My God, why have you forsaken me?" ... as if to say "Why is it like this?" He was one who was not separate from our own suffering.

Many of us feel the weight of anxiety and fear as we journey through the current world. We are told many narratives of how it is and what is to come. During this season of Lent, we as a community look to the life and teachings of Jesus. We think that One who was in the midst of such political and empirical turmoil, who spoke the words of "Be not afraid" ... and "Come to me all you are weary and carrying a heavy load, for I will give you rest" ... is someone who can illuminate our desperate viewpoint.

These stations are a cross-section of elements, ideas, and objects from Jesus' journey to the cross. As you work through these stations, may you see that we are not troubled guests in this world... that we are not forsaken ... and that the good news of this season was expressed best by Jesus when He said ... "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I: Jesus is Tempted

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” – Matthew 26:38

Additional Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

Artist's Meditation:

Jesus is compelled to desperate prayer.

Think of Jesus' complete honesty in prayer.

Jesus calls together his friends in his most desperate time of prayer.

What drives you to such a desperate time of prayer?

I



JESUS IS TEMPTED

II: Jesus is Betrayed

"Friend, do what you came here to do." - Matthew 26:50

"The son of man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him and after three days he will rise." - Mark 9:31

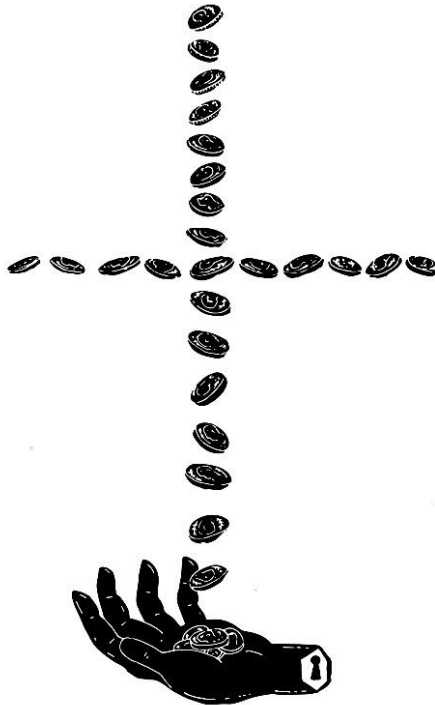
Additional Scripture: Matthew 26:14-16

Artist's Meditation:

The son of God was betrayed by a friend.

The son of God was betrayed by his creation.

II



JESUS IS BETRAYED

III: Jesus is Condemned

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. – John 19:15

“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” – John 19:11

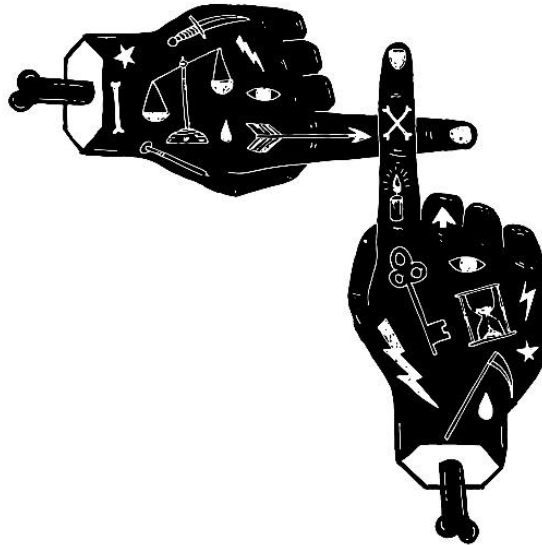
“But this is your hour – when darkness reigns.” – Luke 22:53

Additional Scripture: Luke 22:66-71

Artist’s Meditation:

Jesus submits quietly and peacefully. Jesus is condemned by religious leaders. What was their fear?

III



JESUS IS CONDEMNED

IV: Jesus is Mocked

“But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” – John 18:23

Additional Scripture: Matthew 27:28; Matthew 20:18-19

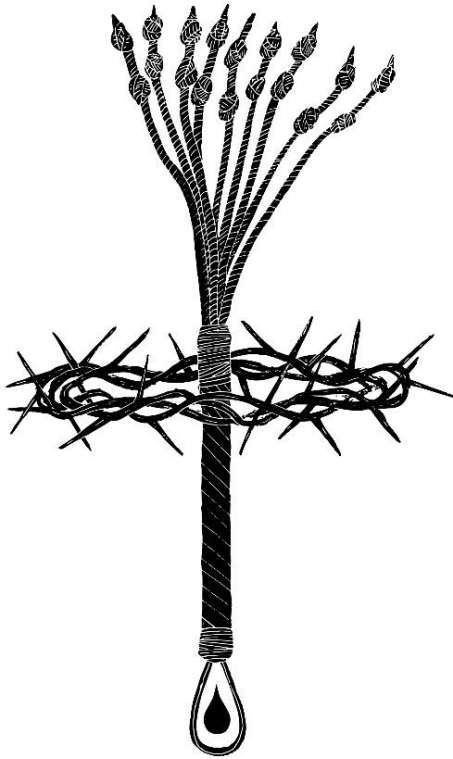
Artist's Meditation:

What brings on our mockery?

These soldiers brutalize Jesus. Possibly their common response to Jewish prisoners.

Imagine the Son of God being brutalized by men.

IV



JESUS IS MOCKED

V: Jesus is Given His Cross

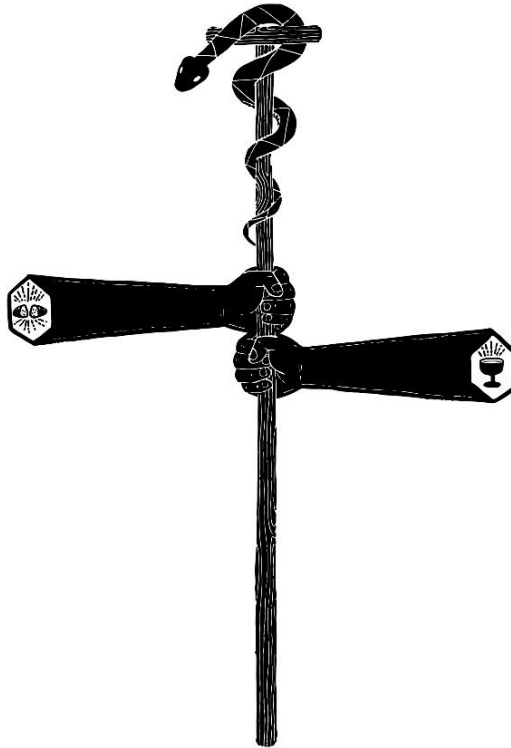
"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." - John 3:14-15

Artist's Meditation:

The cross was a public murder device for criminals. This is how Jesus was killed.

Imagine carrying the wood of the cross ... up the hill to your eventual slow and public death.

V



JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

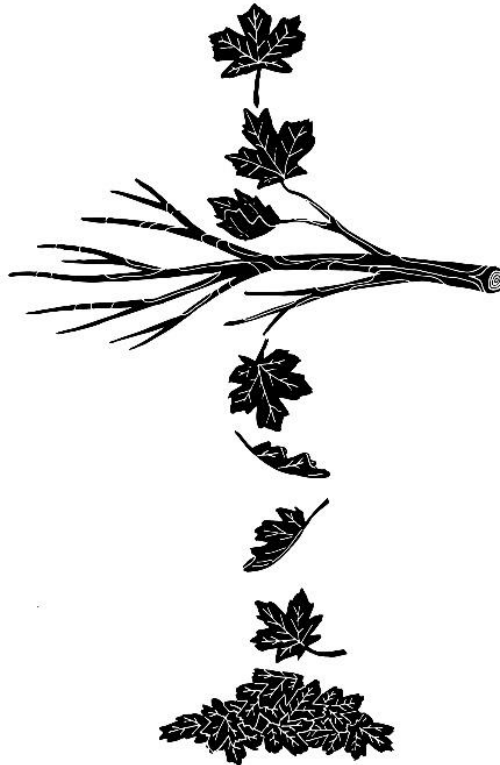
VI: Jesus Falls

“Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” - John 12:24

Artist’s Meditation:

This station, although not found in scripture, is traditionally in three stations. It symbolizes his humanity and his ever decreasing strength as he moves towards his public death. Imagine Jesus experiencing weakness and distress in a public setting with nowhere to hide. Imagine the exhaustion of the last 24 hours.

VI



JESUS FALLS

VII: Simon Carries Jesus' Cross

Simon the Cyrene carries His cross. - Luke 23:26

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." - Matthew 16:24

Artist's Meditation:

Imagine being pulled from the crowd and carrying this man's device of death.
What is it like to walk alongside Jesus in this?

VII



SIMON CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

VIII: Jesus is Stripped

“For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” – Luke 23:31

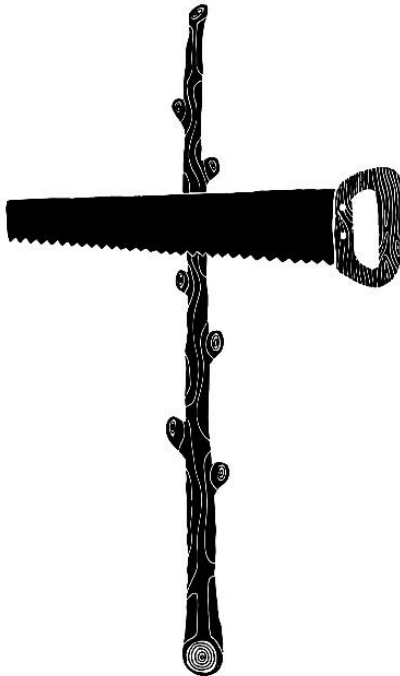
“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. – Luke 23:24

Artist’s Meditation:

Romans crucified criminals naked.

Reflect on the same of nakedness in the Garden of Eden. And the same of nakedness in this moment.

VIII



JESUS IS STRIPPED

IX: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man then you will know that I am the one I claim to be” - John 8:28

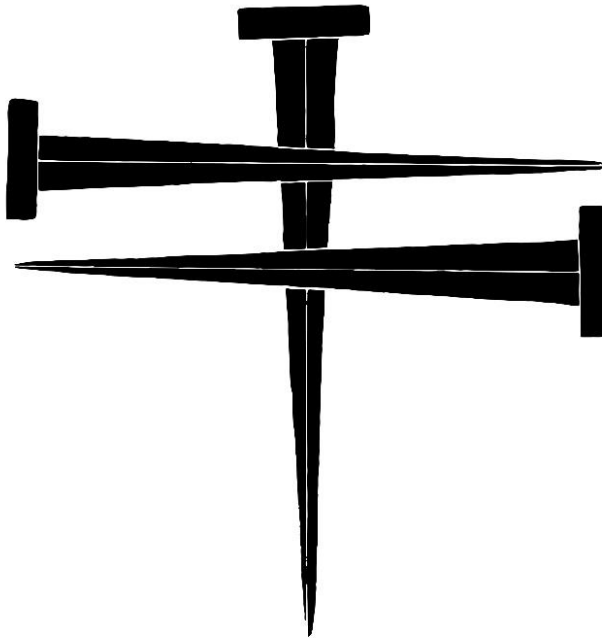
“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all mankind to myself.” - John 12:32

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” - Matthew 27:46

Meditation:

The long physical pain of crucifixion was excruciating. In fact, the word excruciating is derived from crucifixion.

IX



JESUS IS NAILED

X: Jesus Dies

"Greater Love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." – John 15:13

"It is finished." – John 19:30

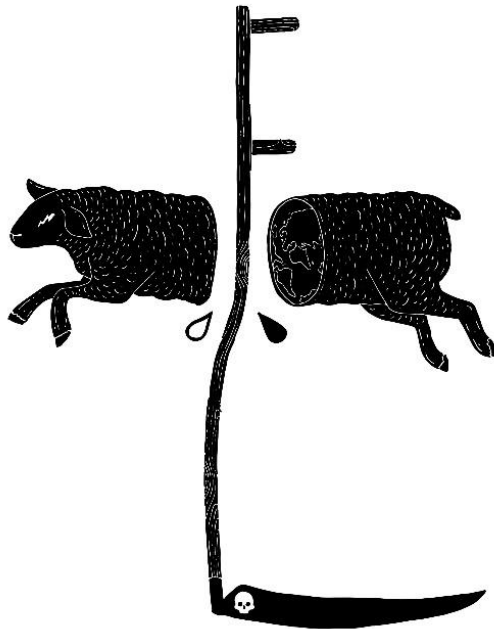
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." – Luke 23:46

Additional Scripture: Isaiah 53:7

Artist's Meditation:

Jesus died. He died. Our greatest fear is death. And He was not insulated from that fear. His physical body stopped working. His friends watched him die.

X



JESUS DIES

XI: Jesus is Buried

*“When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.” –
Matthew 26:12*

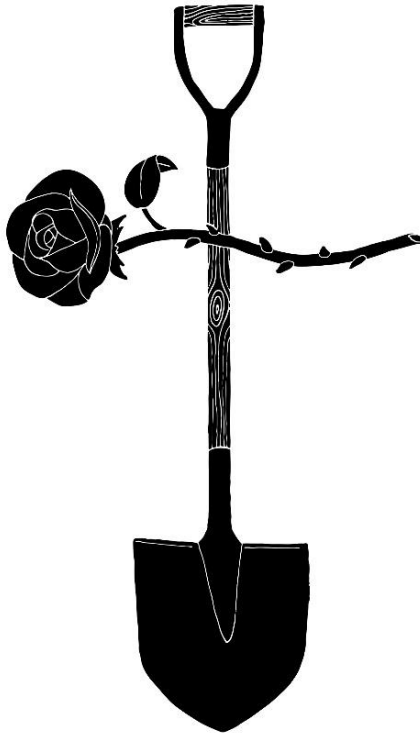
Additional Scripture: Luke 23:50-56

Artist's Meditation:

His friends buried Him.

Have you ever buried a loved one? Imagine doing that with the one you believed was going to change the world and bring ultimate justice and healing.

XI



JESUS IS BURIED

XII: Jesus Rises

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for his sheep." - John

10:11

"Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the son of man has been raised from the dead." - Matthew 17:9

"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." - Revelation 1:17-18

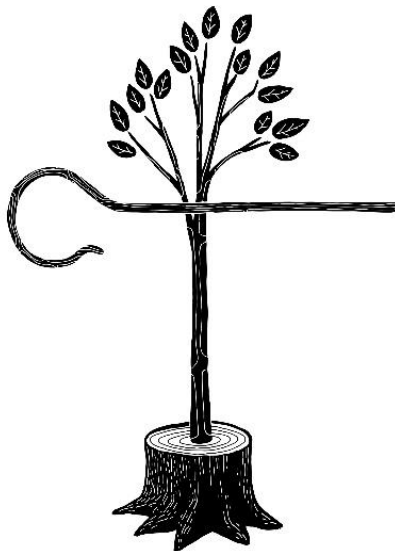
Additional Scripture: Matthew 20:18-19; Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 2:24-25

Artist's Meditation:

Consider the other side of our greatest fear.

Jesus shows us that there is something beyond death.

XII



JESUS RISES

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Live Stream worship: relcmedia.org/virtualworship

OUR MISSION

**Called by Christ, we INVITE all people,
SERVE our neighbors, and
BUILD a living faith.**

WELCOME

Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.