

14 Jesus is placed in the tomb

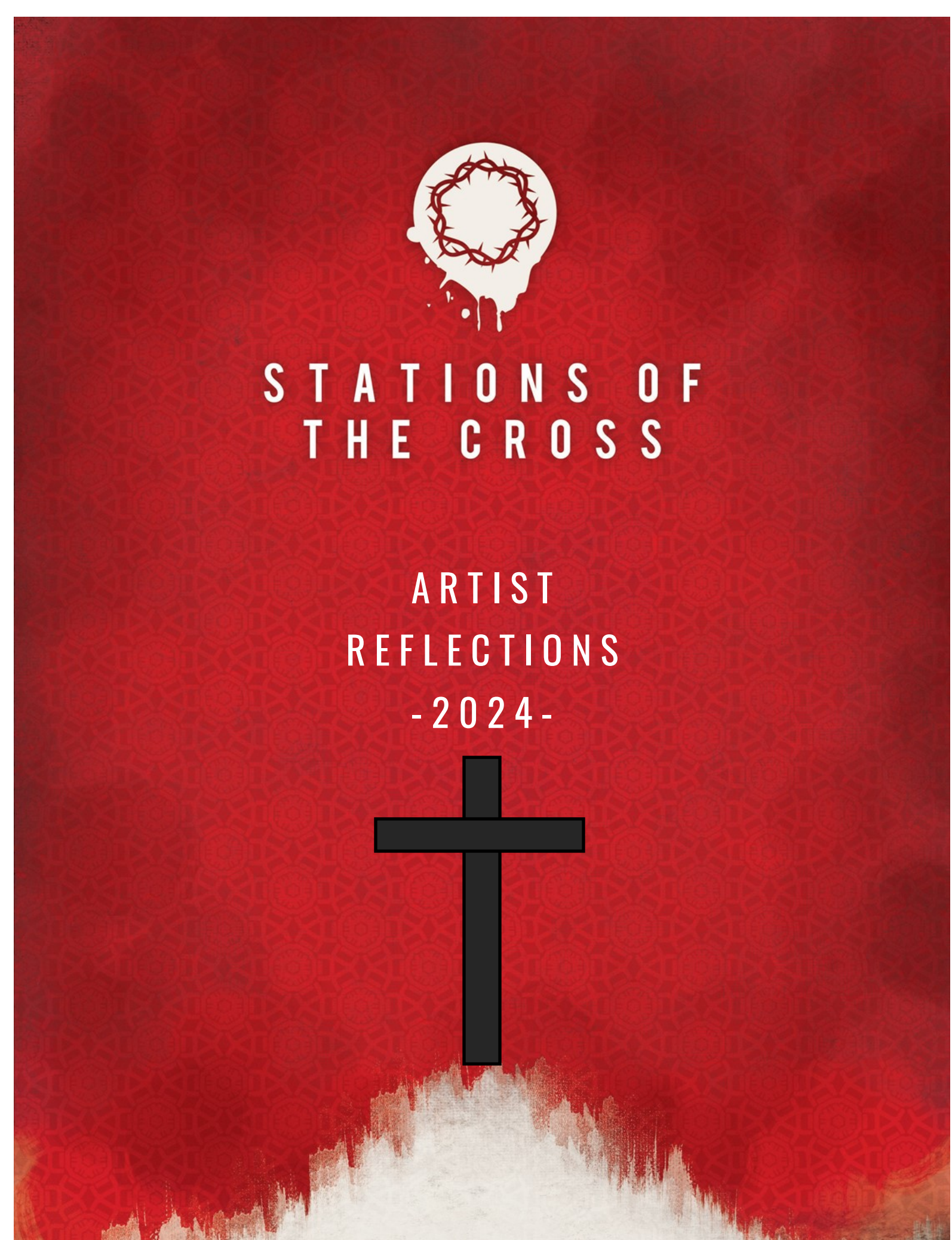
Luke 23:50-53

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council. He was a good and righteous man. ⁵¹He hadn't agreed with the plan and actions of the council. He was from the Jewish city of Arimathea and eagerly anticipated God's kingdom. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³Taking it down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb carved out of the rock, in which no one had ever been buried.



In April of 2022, I was able to capture this image of Michelangelo's "Pietà" statue at the Vatican in Rome. Although it's not mentioned in scripture, it instills such compassion. I hope it brings to you the gravity of the image.

- Ray Spencer



INTRODUCTION

The origin of the tradition of the Stations of the Cross is not entirely clear, though it seems to be associated with Christian Pilgrimages to Jerusalem in the early centuries. However, since the vast majority of Christians weren't able to go to Jerusalem to pray in the actual location where Jesus was crucified, The Stations of the Cross enabled them to engage in a "mini" pilgrimage, so everyone would be able to journey through the final events of Jesus' life.

Several years ago, a ministry team here at the Cathedral of the Rockies was formed to read, study, pray over and reflect upon the meaning of these scriptures and create art pieces to express their experiences. This tradition has continued, with new artists filling in for artist who are no longer available to participate.

As you spend time today walking the stations, this booklet will share with you the artists' reflections on the art created for this year's exhibit.

You are welcome to take as long as you wish to pray and meditate as you travel along this spiritual representation of the Stations (or Way) of the Cross. This booklet contains all of the scriptures (Common English translation), the artists' reflections on their individual pieces, and photos of their work for you to enjoy even after you leave today.

THE CATHEDRAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS MINISTRY TEAM FOR 2024:

- 1 Caprice Bitar
- 2 Ray Spencer
- 3 Jennifer Kloss
- 4 Holly Badke
- 5 Debra Colliver
- 6 Ray Spencer
- 7 Edward Kowalski
- 8 Coke machine one
- 9 Sue Roberts
- 10 Kathy Hess
- 11 Ray Spencer
- 12 Joye Lisk
- 13 Earl Swope
- 14 Ray Spencer

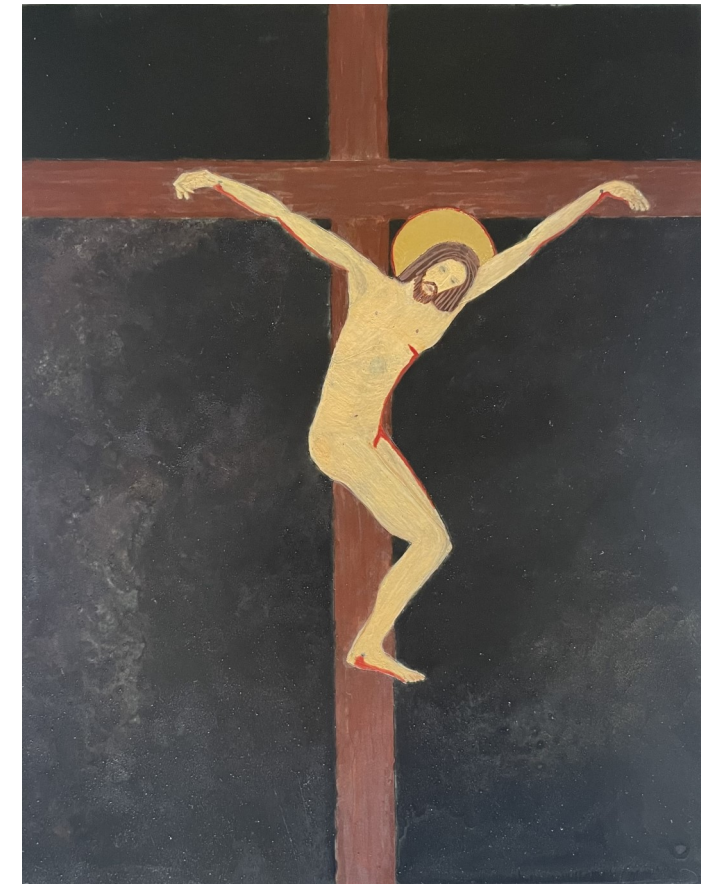


13 Jesus dies on the cross

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, ⁴⁵ while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle. ⁴⁶ Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, *into your hands I entrust my life.*"^[a] After he said this, he breathed for the last time.

In 1968, construction crews unearthed burial chambers in Jerusalem. Archaeologist Vassilios Tzaferis who excavated four of the tombs, discovered ossuaries, small stone boxes for the secondary burial of bones. In one ossuary he found the bones of a crucified Jewish man. Osteologists who studied the bones found a nail about seven inches long holding the heel bones together. They interpreted that, rather than the nail being driven through the feet as seen in many crucifixion depictions, the heels were placed on top of each other, and the nail driven through the heel bones. Others have argued this theory, saying the nail was not long enough to penetrate the cross more than a few centimeters and claiming the heels were nailed to either side of the cross.



The only other remains of a crucifixion victim ever discovered were found in 2017 in a Roman cemetery in the Cambridgeshire village of Fenstanton, located in what was then Roman Britain. The Fenstanton crucified man had only his right foot nailed to the cross. The nail had been hammered in horizontally through the back of his ankle and his heel. Only 1-2cm of the nail would actually have penetrated the timber upright of the cross."

- Earl Swope

12 Jesus on the cross, his mother and his disciple

Luke 23:44

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock

John 19:25-27

²⁵Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.



It is not possible to paint the tragedy of the crucifixion without humble gratitude for God's gift of love to mankind. That dark afternoon was not the end but a beginning of change in all of music and art and the way we think of our walk as Christian followers of Jesus and his teachings. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 Death holds no power, and life takes on new meaning!

- Joye Lisk

1 Jesus on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22:30-46

³⁹Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you won't give in to temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed. ⁴²He said, "Father, if it's your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done." ⁴³Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly. His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. ⁴⁵When he got up from praying, he went to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief. ⁴⁶He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you won't give in to temptation."



Agony of God—The Garden

In the Garden we find a way to gather personal peace by reaching out to pray and open our hearts to all the layers of earth, the good, the bad, the sad, the joyful, the peaceful, the broken, the wealthy, the poor. Jesus saw and felt the depth of the agony as he walked the path of godliness and opened his "earthly heart" to the world.

- Caprice Bitar

2 Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested

Luke 22:47-48

⁴⁷ While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared, and the one called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him.

⁴⁸ Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Human One with a kiss?"

Judas is a perplexing character among Jesus' inner circle. Whether he was a person who decided to betray Jesus with 30 pieces of silver or part of a divine plan has been a source of debate for centuries. He came to a bad end, hanging himself near Calvary.



Another tragedy happened last year, in Lahaina, Maui, when a devastating wildfire took many lives and turned this island paradise to grey dust. Some survivors may have felt that God had betrayed them. The fire spared several properties, right next to lots where there were once homes and businesses. One property that was spared was the small Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where this Station of the Cross is found.

Despite the destruction all around, Sacred Heart has become a place of prayer, grieving, gathering and hope for Lahaina's residents. It is proof that out of the ashes can rise God's people to remember and rebuild.

Whether out of the ashes of a raging fire or the throes of crucifixion, Jesus brings hope for this world and the next.

Lahaina collection, Ray Spencer, photographer

Scan QR code to learn more of Lahaina's miraculous story.



11 Jesus promises his Kingdom to the good thief

Luke 23:33, 39-43

³ When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die?" ⁴¹ We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."



Last year, while many souls were lost to the wildfire in Lahaina, those who remained had to endure burns, homelessness, loss of friends and family members, and a sense of community. Yet hope is emerging as the community slowly is cleared and rebuilt. Sacred Heart Catholic Church has become a community place of prayer, a gathering place for mourners and a source of hope for Lahaina. On the walls are their Stations of the Cross.

On Calvary, the two condemned thieves also would die. Some believe Christ was saving only the one who reached out to Him. But perhaps Jesus' message was meant for both thieves.

In Lahaina, this station on the wall at Sacred Heart depicts the nails pounded into one thief's wrist.

Whether out of the ashes of a raging fire or the throes of crucifixion, Jesus brings hope for this world and the next.

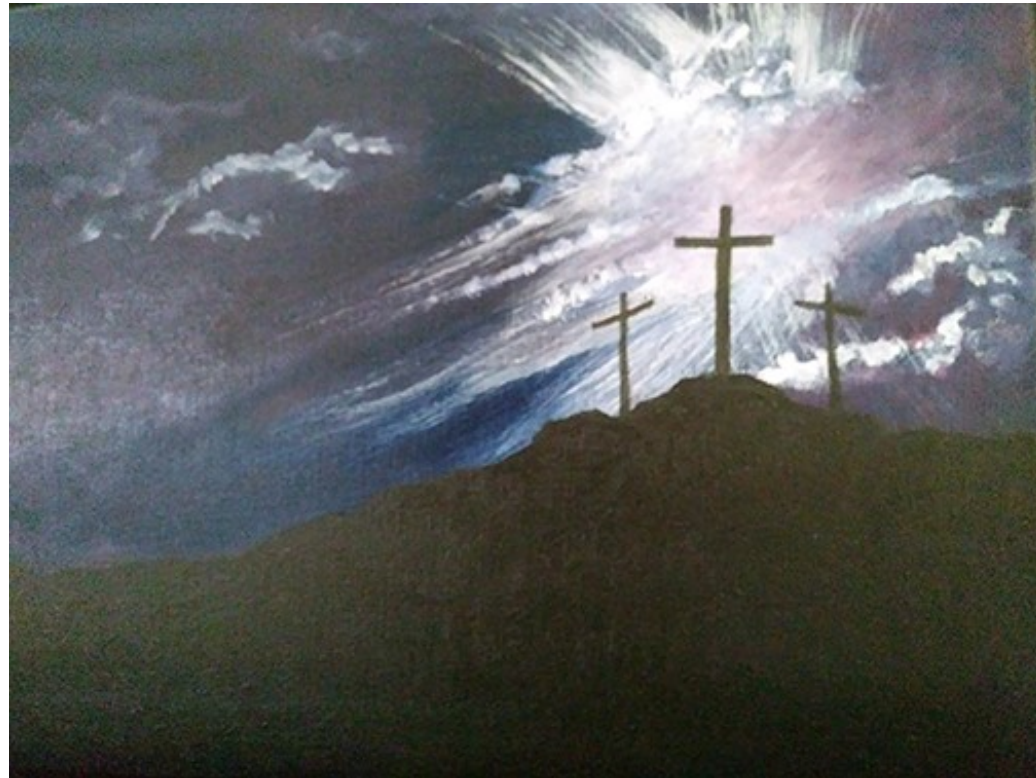
Lahaina collection, Ray Spencer, photographer

10 Jesus is crucified

Luke 23:33, 47

³³When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, "It's really true: this man was righteous."



Even though it was midday, a dreadful darkness covered the face of the world.
The sun could not shine. The earth trembled and quaked.
The great mountains shook. Rocks split in two,
until it seemed that the whole world would break apart.
Strange clouds and shadows filled the sky. Purple, orange, black -
like a bruise on the world.

This was taken from a children's Storybook Bible, but it says it all in simple terms. I painted the crucifixion as a dark, terrible day, but with hope emanating from the cross and promising eternal life.

- Kathy Hess

3 Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Matthew 27:11-14

¹¹Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "That's what you say." ¹²But he didn't answer when the chief priests and elders accused him.

¹³Then Pilate said, "Don't you hear the testimony they bring against you?" ¹⁴But he didn't answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed.

Jesus ...

- Exorcised People by Demon Powers
- Blasphemer
- King of the Jews
- Insulter
- Messiah
- Liar
- Practiced Sorcery
- Disrespectful
- Son of God
- Violated the Sabbath
- Made False Claims
- Guilty

What is TRUTH?
Who is HE?

- Jennifer Kloss



4 Peter denies Jesus

Luke 22:54-62

⁵⁴ After they arrested Jesus, and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. ⁵⁵ When they sat down together in the courtyard, Peter sat among them.

⁵⁶ Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight and said, "This man was with him too."

⁵⁷ But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him!"

⁵⁸ A little while later, someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too."

But Peter said, "Man, I'm not!"

⁵⁹ An hour or so later, someone else insisted, "This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too."

⁶⁰ Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, who remembered the Lord's words: "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.



Peter was passionate about his commitment to Jesus. We too can believe our faith is grounded and unshakable. But what happens when human weakness and fear take over? Jesus had warned Peter to beware. Yet the memory of this warning was gone until after the third denial.

What happens when we encounter difficult and challenging moment? Like Peter, we may fail. Many people make tragic decisions, and the guilt of those decisions causes them to walk away from Christ.

No matter how heartbroken one is,

Jesus is there to heal us, and invites us to recommit to following Him. Failure can be an experience to make us stronger, wiser and more compassionate than we ever would have been otherwise. Failure can be our redemption and our salvation. Barbara Marshall

A Rooster's crow breaks the silence of dawn.

Frightened Peter sits alone.

At the sound of the rooster, Peter is reminded of his Savior and friend's prophetic last words.

His throat tightens.

Hands clenched, locked in despair, the shame and guilt overwhelm Peter.

Peter's eyes fill with tears.

But this is not the end of his story...

- Holly Badke

9 Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:28-30

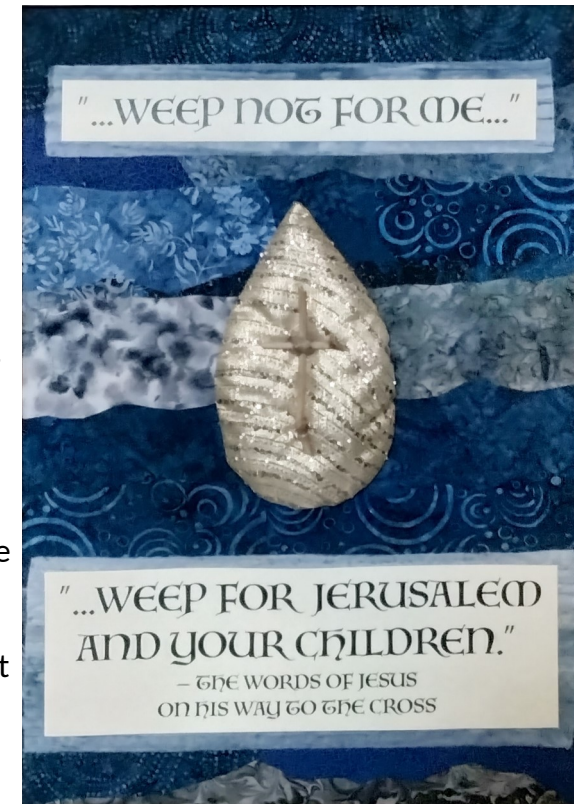
²⁸ Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. ²⁹ The time will come when they will say, 'Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.' ³⁰ Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.'"

Darkness fell on the souls of the Daughters of Jerusalem as they wailed and lamented when Jesus stumbled by. Some of them may not have believed in His divinity, but they were shocked to see a man bleeding from a brutal Roman scourging headed toward his execution. Some historians believe that the women were professional mourners who were on the streets every time there was a pending crucifixion. This was an unholy parade designed to humiliate the convicted and warn of consequences if others broke Roman rules.

Yet when Jesus passed by and locked eyes on the women, he told another story about faith and the pitfalls of separation from God. He warned that his misery was nothing compared to what was ahead for those who neglected to believe in Him: they were to experience devastation beyond their wildest dreams. He predicted that the tribulation would be so severe that they would beg for the mountains to fall on them and the hills cover them. The Son of God could have ignored these women, yet despite his aching body, offered one last divine directive to lead them to be saved from all of that. This was particularly important as the women were symbolic of the nation of Israel that for the most part had rejected Jesus as Savior.

I believe Jesus hears our prayers and feels our tears just as He did in ancient days. This Station is about tears, tears from human life's challenges and joys, from the Savior walking the Via Dolorosa, to His purchasing of our pardon. In my fiber Reflection, the multiple dark, hand-dyed batiks represent the brooding sky of that fateful day. They are brightened by a golden teardrop, the dew of Jesus' everlasting love that sees our tears and cares deeply about us now and in our future. Through our compassionate tears, we can be drawn closer to God and salvation.

- Sue Ann Tanzer Roberts



8 Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross

Mark 15:21

²¹Simon, a man from Cyrene, Alexander and Rufus' father, was coming in from the countryside. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

And so, I read the Bible. It is a sentence; so simple. I read this often. I first stumbled over the chaos and force that is all around this verse and my life. I drew figurative drawings depicting Simon's movement and the force that stopped and turned him. I depicted dark, straight figures with large hands; road blocks.

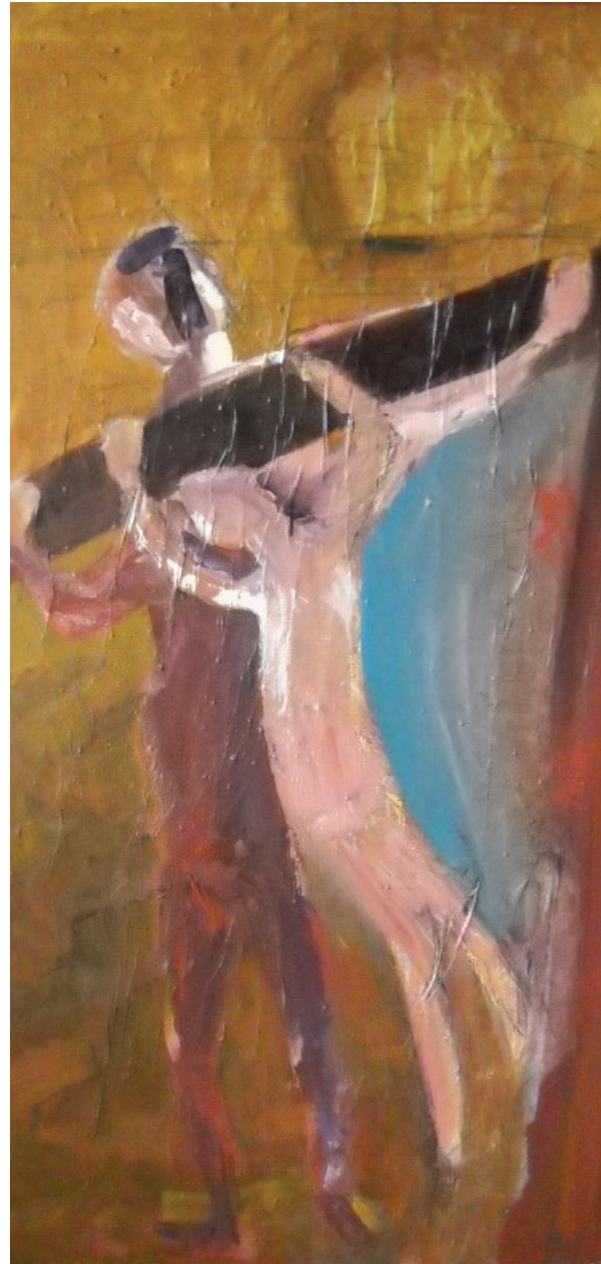
"I am forced, I am force; and, I am forced." -I painted

My painting progressed in layers. I drew with charcoal, added texture and blocks of color; obliterated parts and started up again. I painted three paintings trying to depict the words, "they forced." But, I always came back to this painting, in the center, where two men find atonement.

"Five minutes to Golgotha; half hour; lifetime; no time." -I painted

This painting is my expression of the moment when time stops; the peace that is found in the center of chaos. For we are on our way to our plans; and, then we are stopped, and turned by events that we do not want to face. Simon chose Jesus. In that small time; that awful time, Simon was transformed; a part of the miracle. We, too. Amen.

- Lorna Sutcliffe



5 Jesus is judged by Pilate

Luke 23:23-25

²³But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. ²⁴Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. ²⁵He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

The tragedy and gravity of this event make us feel like little children who need our time of prayer.

Matthew 18:3

"I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven.



Our Father Who Art in Heaven

In prayer, children become aware of the presence of God already around and in them. In a special way, prayer invites them to recognize God's presence in every moment. Praying regularly can teach children important moral values it encourages empathy, kindness, forgiveness, and humility. When children pray for others, they learn to think beyond themselves, fostering a sense of compassion and understanding.

- Debra Colliver

6 Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

John 19:2

²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe.



Perhaps this story is included in the scriptures as a reminder that he really was king and yet so misunderstood. May we all try to understand more deeply.

- Ray Spencer

7 Jesus takes up the cross

John 19:17

¹⁷Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*).

John 1:29

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Matthew 16:24-25

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ²⁵All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them.



Through my painting, I endeavor to convey the profound **intensity** of the event, capturing the **dramatic** innocence of His sacrifice and the timeless **emotional** resonance it evokes. Additionally, I hope to **illustrate** the full **spectrum** of angst, the **symbolic** pain and suffering that He willingly bore and to **portray** the promise of redemption ultimately extended to all humanity.

- Edward Kowalski