

Living Stations of the Cross ~ Christ the King Youth Ministry April 2, 2010

The Way of the Cross

First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Die

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus stands before those who hold his earthly life in their hands.

He knows suffering lies ahead. He could lie about himself and escape that suffering. He tells the truth, though, because he loves us, and Love stands for truth.

Prayer

Jesus, so many times trying to be truthful seems just too hard. If

I'm completely truthful about my sins, I will have to suffer consequences for

my wrongdoing. If I'm completely honest about my plans, I may face restrictions that will keep me from doing what I want. If I'm really open about who I am and what I think, some people might change the way they think of me. They might decide I'm not very good or something.

In this first station, I see you stand before your accusers in truth, out of love. Help me be led by love, too. May knowing that you love me as I am strengthen me to be honest about myself. May my love for others help

me see that they deserve the truth from me.

The Way of the Cross

First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Die

Time Of My Life :

I've been waiting for my dreams To turn into something

I could believe in And looking for that

Magic rainbow On the horizon

I couldn't see it Until I let go

Gave into love and watched all the bitterness burn

Now I'm coming alive Body and soul

And feelin' my world start to turn

And I'll taste every moment And live it out loud

I know this is the time, This is the time

To be more than a name Or a face in the crowd

I know this is the time This is the time of my life Time of my life

Holding onto things that vanished

Into the air Left me in pieces But now I'm rising from the ashes

Finding my wings And all that I needed

Was there all along Within my reach As close as the beat of my heart

Second Station

Jesus Carries His Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has been beaten and mocked by the Roman guards. Now a huge, heavy beam is laid brutally on his shoulders. Jesus carries the great weight of sin as he begins his journey to Golgotha, where they would crucify him. He bears it willingly, for love bears all things.

Prayer

Jesus, I may be young, but I've already learned that life brings many challenges and burdens. In a way, these burdens are our own crosses that all people must carry through life.

Sometimes, I condemn myself to carry a cross. I get myself into tough situations that have tough consequences. But at other times, life just

lays a heavy cross on my shoulders. I didn't ask for it. I don't want it. But it's there, and it's hard to bear – especially because I don't understand why it's there.

I see you carry your cross out of love. Help me see a purpose in the cross I'm carrying today. Help me find a loving way to bring good out of this cross.

Station II – Jesus Takes Up His Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Because By Your Holy Cross You Have Redeemed the World

"Every Day" Rascal Flatts

You could've bowed out gracefully
But you didn't You knew enough to know
To leave well enough alone But you wouldn't
I drive myself crazy Tryin' to stay out of my own way
The messes that I make But my secrets are so safe
The only one who gets me Yeah, you get me
It's amazing to me

I come around all broken down and
Crowded out And you're comfort
Sometimes the place I go
Is so deep and dark and desperate
I don't know, I don't know

Sometimes I swear, I don't know if
I'm comin' or goin'
But you always say something
Without even knowin'
That I'm hangin' on to your words
With all of my might and it's alright
Yeah, I'm alright for one more night-
Every day

Third Station

Jesus Falls the First Time

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The streets of Jerusalem are narrow and winding. Crowds have gathered to watch Jesus make his way to the place of crucifixion. Under the weight of the cross and pressed by the crowds, Jesus stumbles and falls.

Prayer

Jesus, the cross you carry is not just made of wood. It is made of the sadness of the world's sin and all its consequences in human suffering.

That is a heavy burden to carry, and under its weight, you fall.

Sin brings me down to the ground, too. I may think I can handle it at first, but after a while, I find that my lies or my casual cruelty or my closed

heart is making it hard for me to walk upright. I fall.

I see you fall under all the weight, but I also see that you refuse to let the heaviness of the world's sin keep you down. You rise and keep walking out of love. Help me to rise, too, and find the path of love once again.

Station III – Jesus Falls

Make Some Noise : Miley Cyrus

It's easy to feel like you're all alone
To feel like nobody knows
The great that you are
The good that's inside you
That's trying so hard to break through
Maybe it's your time to lift off and fly
You won't know if you never try
I will be there with you all of the way
You'll be fine

Don't let anyone tell you that you're not strong enough
Don't give up, there's nothing wrong with just being yourself
That's more than enough
So come on and raise your voice
Speak your mind and make some noise
And sing...hey...hey
Make some noise...hey...hey...yeah

Fourth Station

Jesus Meets His Mother

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

When Jesus was a baby, his parents took him to the temple. There, a prophet told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul. Seeing her beloved son now wounded, weak and walking to an unjust death, Mary feels that sword tear at her heart.

Prayer

Jesus, amid the crowd filled with mocking, curious and indifferent faces, one face stands out. It is the face of your sorrowful mother, Mary. She held you close as a baby, searched for you when she thought you were lost in Jerusalem and was there with you as you changed water into wine. As she has so often in the past, Mary stands near you now. But this moment is different from all the others. She can do nothing for you now; she can only watch in grief because she loves you so very much.

I suppose all parents must sometimes look at their own children with this same kind of sadness. When we are sick, when we are running down harmful paths, when we refuse to listen, our parents feel it, because they love us.

I see you stop to give your mother comfort. Help me stop on my journey and let my parents in to give me comfort. Help me love them by being open to their love and support.

Station IV – Jesus Meets His Mother

Let It Be – Jennifer Hudson

When I find myself in times of trouble, mother Mary comes to me,
speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me,
speaking words of wisdom, let it be.

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be.
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree,
there will be an answer, let it be.
For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they
will see,
there will be an answer. let it be.

Let it be, let it be,

Fifth Station

Simon Helps Jesus

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The cross only gets heavier with every step. The guards pull a man named Simon out of the crowd and put the crushing weight of the cross on his shoulders. Not that they care about Jesus, but they have a job to do. They have to get him to the place of crucifixion.

Prayer

Jesus, I wonder if the man named Simon knew you at all. He wasn't one of the twelve disciples. Maybe he had never even heard of you before that day.

He didn't volunteer to help you, either; he was forced into it by armed soldiers. But despite all that – despite being a stranger pulled in to help against his will, for a moment, a burden on you was lifted.

Every day, my life puts me in the presence of people I've never met before and never will see again – at school, at work, at the mall, at a game. As I see your burden lifted by a stranger, help me remember that every action and word I speak to a stranger can either lighten their daily load or make it heavier. Help me approach them with love. And help me gratefully accept any kindnesses that are offered to me.

Station V Simon Carries the Cross

“Never Gonna Be Alone” Nickelback

Time, is going by, so much faster than I
And I'm starting to regret not spending all of here with you
Now I'm wondering why I've kept this bottled inside
So I'm starting to regret not selling all of it to you
So if I haven't yet, I've gotta let you know

You're never gonna be alone from this moment on
If you ever feel like letting go, I won't let you fall
You're never gonna be alone, I'll hold you 'til the hurt is gone

And now, as long as I can, I'm holding on with both hands
'Cause forever I believe
That there's nothing I could need but you
So if I haven't yet, I've gotta let you know

You're never gonna be alone from this moment on
If you ever feel like letting go, I won't let you fall
When all hope is gone, I know that you can carry on
We're gonna see the world out, I'll hold you 'til the hurt is gone

Station VI – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

After Jesus was arrested, the guards put a crown of thorns on his head. The long, sharp thorns pierced the skin on his scalp and drew blood.

Now hours later, the blood, sweat and filth have covered Jesus' face. Veronica reaches out in love.

Prayer

Jesus, I must admit that suffering frightens me. I don't man just the idea of my own suffering, but it's the suffering of others that I find difficult to face.

I don't like to see people I love in pain. When someone I know endures great suffering, it is hard to know what to say or do. Sometimes when I'm faced with that kind of suffering, I just want to go far away until it's

all over. Sometimes people are changed by illness or the pains of age or grief. It's hard to recognize them under the scars of their pain.

I see Veronica reaching out to you. Others are frightened off by your suffering. Some don't know what to do or say. Veronica sees through the blood and the dirt. She does a simple thin. She cleans you face. Help me reach out as Veronica did and not be overcome by my fear. Help me be

strengthened by love to recognize your face in the suffering of others.

My Immortal – Evanescence

I'm so tired of being here, suppressed by all my childish fears
And if you have to leave, I wish that you would just leave
Your presence still lingers here and it won't leave me alone
These wounds won't seem to heal, this pain is just too real
There's just too much that time cannot erase
When you cried, I'd wipe away all of your tears
When you'd scream, I'd fight away all of your fears
And I held your hand through all of these years
But you still have all of me
You used to captivate me by your resonating light
Now, I'm bound by the life you left behind
Your face it haunts my once pleasant dreams
Your voice it chased away all the sanity in me
These wounds won't seem to heal, this pain is just too real
There's just too much that time cannot erase
When you cried, I'd wipe away all of your tears
When you'd scream, I'd fight away all of your fears
And I held your hand through all of these years
But you still have all of me
I've tried so hard to tell myself that you're gone
But though you're still with me, I've been alone all along

Seventh Station

Jesus Falls the Second Time

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Just a few days ago, people were cheering when Jesus entered this city. The feeling is different now. Now Jesus is condemned as a criminal and hardly anyone seems to be on his side. He falls again. Does anyone care?

Prayer

Jesus, I see people fall every day. Kids I know struggle in school. They make mistakes. They lose games and forget their lines on stage. They have family problems and dread going home at night. My parents get stressed out because of all they things they have to do. They lose their temper with me. Sometimes I deserve it, sometimes I don't. When I think about all of this, sometimes I feel let down by the way people disappoint me. I watch them fall, and it makes me angry or feel superior or even laugh at them. I see you surrounded by pressures and cruelty, falling down under the weight of all of it. I'm sorry to see you fall. When I see other people fall in my life, help me remember you and be more understanding with them . When those I know fall, help me react with compassion and desire to help. May love move me to care.

Station VII – Jesus Falls For The Second Time

“Unstoppable” Rascal Flatts

So, so you made a lot of mistakes
Walked down the road a little sideways
Cracked a rib when you hit the wall
Yeah, you've had a pocket full of regrets
Pull you down faster than a sunset
Hey, it happens to us all
When the cold hard rain just won't quit
And you can't see your way out of it

CHORUS

You find your faith has been lost and shaken
You take back what's been taken
Get on your knees and dig down deep
You can do what you think is impossible
Keep on believing, don't give in
It'll come and make you whole again
It always will, it always does Love is unstoppable
Love, it wear the ring of stone Bring you back to being born again
oh, it's a helping hand when you need it most
A lighthouse shining on the coast
That never goes dim

Eighth Station

Jesus Meets the Women

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

As Jesus preached and taught during his ministry, his apostles were at his side. Now, they are gone, nowhere to be seen. But along the sad road, a small group follows Jesus. It is a cluster of women from Jerusalem, walking behind him in tears for what he has endured and for his death that comes closer with every step.

Prayer

Jesus, although you are exhausted and weak, you have strength enough to speak to the women who are weeping for you. You tell them not to shed tears for you, but for themselves and for their children. Following you can sometimes be difficult.

I know that real love can be hard sometimes. Forgiving is hard.

Putting up with someone's mistakes and weakness is hard. It is hard being

faithful to a friend or family member and supporting them when I have other things to do or when the situation makes me feel uncomfortable. Being you

friend, Jesus, can be a challenge.

I see you gently warning the women of hard times ahead. I listen to those words and understand what they mean for me. Help me to be faithful, and to keep following you in love.

Station VIII – Jesus Meets the Women

I need a sign to let me know you're here

All of these lines are being crossed over the atmosphere

I need to know that things are gonna look up

'Cause I feel us drowning in a sea spilled from a cup

When there is no place safe and no safe place to put my head

When you feel the world shake from the words that are said

And I'm calling all angels

I'm calling all you angels

I won't give up if you don't give up

I need a sign to let me know you're here

'Cause my TV set just keeps it all from being clear

I want a reason for the way things have to be

I need a hand to help build up some kind of hope inside of me

When children have to play inside so they don't disappear

And private eyes solve marriage lies cause we don't talk for years

And football teams are kissing Queens

and losing sight of having dreams

In a world that what we want is only what we want until it's ours

Calling all you angels

Ninth Station

Jesus Falls a third Time

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has been arrested, unjustly condemned, whipped and beaten. He has been forced to bear the means of his own death on his back. His friends have disappeared. He falls again.

Prayer

Jesus, your journey on this hard road is a journey of pain and struggle, but most of all, it is a journey of love. It is hard to see this from the

outside. Someone who doesn't understand sees nothing but a shattered man falling under a terrible load on a Jerusalem street.

But there is more to it than this, I know. There is love. You endure all of this because you love us. You suffer because you love me.

It's hard for me to fully realize that love involves suffering. I doubt anybody

truly understands the mystery of how love and suffering are joined. But through your journey, I see how true this connection is.

I see you fall, broken and weak. But in this pain, I also see a love that astonishes me and gives me hope. Help me love as you love. Help me accept the suffering that comes with real love.

Station IX – Jesus Falls For The Third Time

“Walk On” – U2

And love is not the easy thing . The only baggage you can bring...
And love is not the easy thing... The only baggage you can bring
Is all that you can't leave behind

And if the darkness is to keep us apart
And if the daylight feels like it's a long way off
And if your glass heart should crack And for a second you turn
back
Oh no, be strong

Walk on, walk on What you got they can't steal it

No they can't even feel it Walk on, walk on... Stay safe tonight

Tenth station

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus has passed through the city gates, out to the place of the crucifixion called Golgotha. Wooden beams are stuck in the ground, awaiting the crosspiece that he has been carrying on his back. On this hill that means "skull place," he is stripped of his clothes. All is ready.

Prayer

Jesus, you came into the world to share the Good News of God's love. You forgave sins, healed the sick and brought the dead back to life.

And now you stand, God made human, totally exposed to the world, the world that came into being through your own word, a world that

has now turned on you and is preparing to put you to death on a cross.

How could they not have recognized you? How can people be so blind to goodness and love? Why does it scare us so?

I see you, the Lord of Creation, standing weak and vulnerable before your own creation which has closed its eyes to truth. Open my eyes to your love. Help me be open to the many ways you are acting in my life every day. Help me to respond to your voice as it calls me to love.

Station X – Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

"Breathless"

Here you are now Fresh from your war
Back from the edge of time And all that you were,
Stripped to the bone I thought you'd want to know

That when you feel the world is crashing
All around your feet Come running headlong into my arms
Breathless I'll never judge you
I can only love you Come now running headlong
Into my arms Breathless

Lay down your guns Too weak to run
Nothing can harm you here Your precious heart
Broken and scarred Somehow you made it through
I only ask that you won't go again

So glad to see you smiling So good to hear your laugh
I think that you've found you even Missed yourself
I'm only asking this because I think that Truth be told
Oh, you'll never go again

When you feel the world is crashing
All around your feet
Come running headlong into my arms
Breathless
I'll never judge you
I can only love you
Come now running headlong
Into my arms

Eleventh Station

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

The noonday sun burns down on Golgotha. Nails are pounded through Jesus' wrists. Ropes quickly pull the crosspiece up into place. More nails pierce Jesus now through his feet. The cross is in place, bearing love.

Prayer

Jesus, is this really what love looks like? That's not what the world tells me. The world outside tells me that love is about happy feelings, romance and pleasure. As you hang on the cross, surrounded by people mocking you, gambling for your clothes, giving you vinegar when you say you are thirsty, it changes the way I think about love. I see you suffering on the cross, suffering so much that you cry out to the Father. I also see you are suffering for one reason only: you love us. You want to pour out forgiveness of sins and open the doors to eternal life – for us. So you accepted this cup of suffering, out of love. Help me see love in this cross. Help me see how much I need this love. Teach me, through your cross, how to love as you have loved. Teach me that true love is what I have been made for.

Station XI – Jesus Is nailed On the Cross

“Were You There” – Sue Nixon

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Twelfth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus hangs on the cross as the hours creep by. It is harder and harder for him to breathe. One of the thieves crucified alongside mocks him; the other defends him. Jesus promises this good thief that today, he would be in paradise with him. After three hours, Jesus breathes his last.

Prayer

Jesus, forgive me for my sins. All along the way, there were many people involved in bringing you to this point. Some betrayed you, others arrested, tried and convicted you, some whipped you or nailed you to the cross. Hundreds stood by and watched. All but a few of your friends abandoned you and hid.

But beyond all this, a whole ungrateful world brought you to Golgotha. And, sadly, I have to admit that I'm a part of that world. I see you collapsed and lifeless on the cross. Sin is there with you. But your response to sin was not anger or rejection of the world. You accepted the whole world and everything about it, even its sinfulness, in order to heal it. I'm a part of that world. Help me see that through your cross, I am healed and set free.

Station XII – Jesus Dies On The Cross

“I Look To You” Whitney Houston

As I lay me down. Heaven hear me now
I'm lost without a cause. After giving it my all

Winter storms have come And darkened my sun
After all that I've been through Who on earth can I turn to?

Chorus:

I look to you,
I look to you
After all my strength is gone
In you I can be strong
I look to you,
I look to you
And when melodies are gone In you I hear a song
I look to you

Have to lose my breath
There's no fighting left
Sinking to rise no more
Searching for that open door

And every road that I've taken
Led to my regret
And I don't know if I'm go'n make it
Nothing to do but lift my head

My levees are broken
My walls are coming down on me
My rain is falling
Defeat is calling
I need you to set me free
Take me far away from the battle
I need you
Shine on me!

Thirteenth Station

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

For a moment, the world went dark. Thunder rolled across Jerusalem and the earth shook. Something had happened. The world had changed. But now, no one knows that. The guards have left the crucified to his family. A tomb is made ready. In deep sadness, those remaining watch Mary cradle her son in her arms.

Prayer

Jesus, this moment at Golgotha is even more dark and bleak than the others.

Those who were caring for your lifeless body probably had many thoughts just at this moment. They might have been thinking of your laughter and wisdom, of a time they had shared a meal with you, or of a moment when you had assured them that their sins – even their worst sins

– were forgiven. Your mother Mary must have thought about all that had been promised – and once again, the sword pierced her heart.

All of them were probably confused and hurt, wondering what would, what could happen next. But in the midst of this enormous pain, they continued to serve you, quietly, out of love.

I see you cared for by those who love you. Help me do the same.

Help me serve humbly and quietly, out of love.

Station XIII – Jesus is Taken Down From The Cross

“A World To Believe” Celine Dion

I've seen the tears and the heartache, and I felt the pain
I've seen the hatred in so many lives, and lost in vain
And yet through this darkness there's always a light that shines through

And takes me back home Takes me back home

All of the promises broken And all of the songs left unsung

Seems so far away as I make my way back to you

You gave me faith and you gave me a world to believe in

You gave me your love to believe in

And feeling this love I can rise up above

And be strong and be whole once again

I know that dreams we hold on to, can just fade away

And I know that words can be wasted, with so much to say

And I when I feel helpless there's always a hope that shines through

And makes me believe

Makes me believe

And I see for one fleeting moment

A paradise under the sun

I drift away and I make my way back to you

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

We Adore You O' Christ and We Praise You.

Response: Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation

In a cave in the side of a hill, Jesus' body, wrapped in linens, is laid on a shelf carved from the rock, and a stone is rolled across the opening of this tomb. Guards are stationed, and the mourners drift away. Night falls with a heavy silence.

Prayer

Jesus, dying is a scary thing. It is sad to reflect on your unjust death. It is scary to think about my own death and the deaths of those around me. I just don't like to think about such things. Could a stone rolled

across a tomb, darkness and silence, could this really be the end?

Your journey to the cross seems to end in sadness. Sometimes when I am trying to understand and to follow your way of love, I feel frustrated and sad, too. It's hard for me to see the point, or to see how good could come out of it.

I see you lying in the tomb, and faith tells me that death is not the end. As I watch in sadness, help me remember your promise of eternal life.

Help me live, trusting that in your love lies joy and peace.

Station XIV – Jesus Is Laid In The Tomb

He Ain't The Leavin' Rascal Flatts

They tried their best to drag him out
Of a courthouse down in montgomery.
Now they want to kick him out of school
And take him off our money
They can take those words off of paper and stone.
But he aint gone, no

He ain't the leavin' kind
He'd never walk away
Even from those who dont believe
And wanna leave him behind
He ain't the leavin' kind

She stayed mad at him for a lot of years
For taking her husband. Started losing her faith and thinking that
Her life meant nothin. But when she looks at those kids
She raised all by herself. She knows she had some help
Yeah she knows. No matter what you do. No matter where you go he's
Always right there
With you

Even from those who don't believe
And wanna leave him behind.
He ain't the leavin kind!

Station XV – The Resurrection
We Adore You O’ Christ and We Praise You.
Because By Your Holy Cross You Have Redeemed the World

"You Raise Me Up“ Josh Groban

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence,
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

There is no life - no life without its hunger;
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly;
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

You raise me up... To more than I can be.

Nolan Ryan
Nathan Ryan
Annie Parsons
Matthew Laird
Ashley Laird
Hannah Laird
Elena Valentino
Chris Doble
Catherine Doble
Casey Doble
Anna McEntee
Beth McEntee
Michael McEntee
Connor McEntee
Gregory Hults
Joe Bentley
Chris Hughes
Brian Sardinha
Leandra Smith