



STATIONS OF THE CROSS LITURGY

Liturgy & original artwork by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

We invite you to implement this service as-is, or adapt it for your context. Either way, please attribute credit as follows:
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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE SERVICE

This service honors the ancient story of Jesus' death while recognizing the ways this narrative repeats itself again and again throughout the past and present. It provides multisensory ways to engage, confess, and lament. At the time this liturgy was crafted, there were many questions about how communal worship would be handled in the Lenten season.¹ While it is the hope of many that we'll be able to worship safely together, we simply don't know what the future holds. We also assume that many of the adjustments the church has had to make in response to COVID-19 may well be with us for the foreseeable future. With that, we offer three pathways to use this liturgy.



PATHWAY 1 is designed for online services or individual at-home use.

Materials needed:

- Ask participants to have a piece of paper and writing utensil ready.
- See options in liturgy for adding images, pre-recorded music, and videos to your online worship.



PATHWAY 2 is designed for in-person worship where participants are stationary (seated in the sanctuary, standing outdoors, etc.) and the entire congregation participates in each station synchronously together.

Materials needed:

- Music leaders, or the technology to share pre-recorded music and/or lyric music videos.
- Small glass marbles (one for each participant), in blue water hues and a large basin filled with water. If you have an open, accessible baptismal font in your sanctuary, that will also work.
- A large stretched canvas or canvas sheet (painter's drop cloths from a home improvement store should work), red acrylic paint, and paint brushes (inexpensive sponge brushes are fine and can be purchased in bulk affordably so that each has their own).
- A large wooden or sculptural cross (or you can create a cross out of craft paper, poster board, or any other art supplies). Sticky notes and pens.
- You will need to be able to produce a sound like a chime, either with a chime or bell, a singing bowl, an instrument, or even a smartphone app.
- Optional: screens to project images and videos, when relevant.

¹ This liturgy was originally crafted in the fall of 2020 in the midst of another dangerous surge of COVID-19 cases in the US and worldwide. No matter when you are implementing this liturgy, we hope it can be easily adapted to your worship setting.

INTRODUCTION (CONT.)

ABOUT THE SERVICE (CONT.)



PATHWAY 3 is designed for an in-person experience in which participants physically travel from one station to another. Your community may have the indoor space to accommodate stations in a fellowship hall or in rooms throughout the building. Alternatively, this pathway may work outdoors. At each station, the scripture passage should be visible for reading, or you may have someone at each station who reads the passage repeatedly as participants come to each stop. Some of the stations will need cards with instructions for how to engage the items.

Materials needed:

- **STATION 1** Small glass marbles (one for each participant), in blue water hues and a large basin filled with water.
- **STATION 2** A completed puzzle, preferably one that displays human faces. You might consider having one custom-made using an image of your congregation. There are many services, such as Etsy and PuzzlesPrint, you can use to order a custom puzzle board.
- **STATION 3** Display a collection or collage of images of humans in peril or who are crying out for justice. Some examples may be long caravans of food pantry patrons, protest marches, or people advocating before politicians on behalf of their communities. Be careful to aim for diversity in representation so that you do not problematize or stereotype one racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, or national identity. Include captions or short descriptions so that viewers understand what is happening in the photos. You can display these on a table, on display boards, or taped to a wall.
- **STATION 4** This station lifts up the work of *The Innocence Project*². Sourcing information from innocenceproject.org/all-cases, you may print and frame the pictures and stories of the wrongly convicted for participants to read.
- **STATION 5** A large stretched canvas or canvas sheet (painter's drop cloths from a home improvement store should work), red acrylic paint, and paint brushes (inexpensive sponge brushes are fine and can be purchased in bulk affordably so that each has their own).
- **STATION 6** A large wooden or sculptural cross (or you can create a cross out of craft paper, poster board, or any other art supplies). Sticky notes and pens.
- **STATION 7** Print and display a collection of last statements recorded by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice³ for participants to read and reflect upon. You may also include a mirror in the space with a sign that poses the question, "How do you want Jesus to remember you?"
- **STATION 8** Display the piece *Pietà: "Woman, Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother"* by artist and minister Rev. T.D. Anderson (see download for files to print or project the images). Consider including excerpts from Anderson's full artist statement published here: tdandersonart.com/pieta-woman-behold-your-son-behold-your-mother. Print or project the prompts for contemplation to engage the images.
- **STATION 9** Display pictures of Christopher Lowe, Eric Garner, Derrick Scott, Javier Ambler II, Byron Williams, Manuel Ellis, Elijah McClain, John Neville, and George Floyd (you'll want to label each with their names). Among the photos, perhaps situated in the center near wherever the scripture is visible, include the phrase, "I can't breathe!"
- **STATION 10** With the final scripture, you might include a prompt to sit in silence. If you are moving through the stations asynchronously, you might consider printing the dismissal with this final station so that worshipers can depart independently without a communal dismissal. If you would like to include a visual for Station 10, you could print the image, "Joseph of Arimathea" by Hannah Garrity, as well as the accompanying artist statement and visio divina prompts to engage the image. You can license the image here: sanctifiedart.org/image-licensing-library-holy-week-easter/joseph-of-arimathea.

² *The Innocence Project*, founded in 1992 by Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck at Cardozo School of Law, exonerates the wrongly convicted through DNA testing and reforms the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. innocenceproject.org

³ See more at: dcj.texas.gov/death_row/dr_executed_offenders.html