

Journey to the Cross at Arcade UCC
Online Prayer Stations
March 26, 2023

This week at our worship service, we will continue our journey with Jesus toward the cross. The Narrative Lectionary that we are following affords us the opportunity to spend much more time with Jesus in the events of Holy Week than we normally would, and this week during church we will reflect upon those events by journeying to four different interactive prayer stations. This will be a moving experience for those who are in the church building, however, we wanted to make it just as meaningful for those worshipping with us in the online space. To that end, please see below for modified prayer stations that you can set up in your home during the worship service this week.

Station I – Beginning the Journey

Prayer:

Christ Jesus, the journey through life with you is hard. People place expectations on me that I cannot live up to. I place expectations on myself that I cannot live up to. Take some of the weight from my shoulders. Help me to turn back to you as I journey along with you through this season of Lent. Amen.

Activity:

Supplies: Sand or dirt (Optional)
Paper
Pen

If you have sand or dirt available, dump some onto a piece of paper and journey to your core. What unwanted expectations do others place upon you? What stressors do you place upon yourself? Where do you need Christ to walk beside you on your journey and lighten your load? Draw or write something to symbolize those places in the sand and then

wipe it away and give it to God. If you don't have sand available, write or draw it on a piece of paper and rip it up.

Station II – Cross

Prayer:

Christ Jesus, through your death on the cross and glorious resurrection, all was made new. Sin and evil lost their hold on the world, sin and evil lost their hold on us. Yet still, there are times when we fall short. There are places where we need to let your light in. Come and hold us in your loving and forgiving embrace this day. Let us allow you into those places in our lives that we are ashamed of and try to hide from you and the rest of the world. Heal our brokenness and drive out our shame. Amen.

Activity: Nailed to the Cross

Supplies: Piece of wood (optional)
Nail (optional)
Hammer (optional)
Slip of paper
Pen

As a symbolic reminder of Christ's death on the cross, if you have the needed supplies, carefully hammer a nail into a piece of wood. If you do not have the needed supplies, instead write a short note to Jesus on the slip of paper, thanking him for the forgiveness that he offers us.

Station III – Light

Prayer:

Christ Jesus, those that loved you and followed you on your mission did not know that you would return three days later. After seeing you die on the cross they were full of loss and grief. They believed that all the work you had done, all the justice you had shown, all the love you had shared, was lost. But death did not have the last word! And when you did reappear to the disciples, they were full of joy and elation! May we be filled with those same feelings when we think of the empty tomb. Amen.

Activity: Candle Lighting

Supplies: Candle
Lighter or matches

Begin with your candle unlit and imagine the unlit candle as Christ's body in the tomb. Praise God that death did not have the last word! Light the candle and remember that through the resurrection of Jesus, we are promised that all will be made new.

Station IV – Freedom

Prayer:

Christ Jesus, through your resurrection you have freed us to be our true selves – people full of passion and creativity. Inspire us and move through us as we continue to envision and imagine your Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Activity: Artistic Freedom

Supplies: Paper or canvas
Art supplies (colored pencils, crayons, paint, etc.)

Draw, write, paint, etc. for a few minutes as the Spirit moves you.