

# Sacred Space

As Jesus followers, we tell the story of his life, death and resurrection. For centuries, people have made pilgrimages to Jerusalem to trace the footsteps of Jesus carrying his cross to Calvary—the “Via Crucis,” or the Way of the Cross. Over the centuries, the pilgrimage route became known as the “Via Dolorosa,” or the Way of Sorrow.

Every year during Lent, particularly on Good Friday, thousands of Christians retrace the route of Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. Along the Via Dolorosa, chapels and places to pray or meditate are signified as stations of the cross. Around the world, churches and faith communities have developed their own stations of the cross. Here at Red Mountain United Methodist Church, we have created our version of the stations in sacred space. The eight stations were installed by Michael Brooks for his Eagle Scout project, with generous support by the Richardson family and our Trustees Committee.

Located in the columbarium, we encourage you to step away from the busyness and distractions of your life to engage in the Stations of the Cross. Reflect on each plaque, using the Scripture references listed. Pray. Listen. May God bless you on this journey...

This prayer is an example of something you may want to use as you consider the Stations of the Cross:

“Loving and gracious God, I offer my gratitude for Your grace and mercy. You are the God of forgiveness and redemption. Thank you for the gift of the cross, for it is through this symbol, we remember Jesus. It is because of his life, death and resurrection, I experience new life and unconditional love. Amen.”

## Red Mountain United Methodist Church Stations of the Cross



Red Mountain United Methodist Church  
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# Red Mountain United Methodist Church

Lean Forward, Reach Out, Grow with God

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

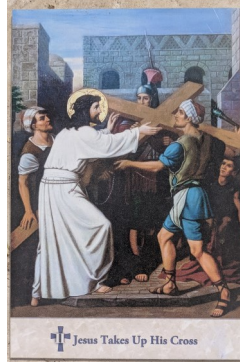




1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



### **Station 1 Jesus is condemned by Pilate**

*“He [Pilate] released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will” (Luke 23:25).*

Pilate was cruel in his dealings with the citizens of Jerusalem. Over the years, accounts grew about his bribes, robberies, injustices without trial, and repeated executions. Pilate had to find a way to use his authority to crucify Jesus and yet publicly wash his hands of the decision.

### **Station 2 Jesus takes up his cross**

*“Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)” (John 19:17).*

The place of the Skull, Golgotha, is known as Calvary in English. Located outside the walls of Jerusalem, such visible executions would have served as warnings to pilgrims and citizens.

### **Station 3 Jesus meets his mother**

*“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene” (John 19:25).*

Imagine Mary’s grief in watching her son, the one to whom she gave birth, the one who changed her life and many others, be sentenced to death. Mary and other women often travelled with Jesus and the other disciples, so it is not surprising to read of their presence at his crucifixion.

### **Station 4 Simon helps Jesus carry the cross**

*“As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus” (Luke 23:26).*

Simon was from Cyrene, located in northern Africa. He had traveled thousands of miles to celebrate the Passover. As an innocent bystander, he was pressed into action and thrust into history.

### **Station 5 Jesus is nailed to the cross**

*“Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, ‘Father, into your hands I entrust my life...” Luke 23:46.*

To the end, Jesus modelled a life of trust in God, speaking out so that those nearby could hear. Jesus had predicted the crucifixion. He knew he would experience suffering and death. Jesus was at odds with both the religious authorities (the Jewish high priests) and the political regime (Roman power).

### **Station 6 Jesus dies on the cross**

*“It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two” (Luke 23:44-45).*

The separation between God and humanity changed. People would no longer be held at a distance from a relationship with God. The old ways were ripped away, and a new covenant—a promise—between God and God’s people formed.

### **Station 7 Jesus is taken off the cross**

*Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs (Matthew 27:55).*

Once he was taken down from the cross, this plaque depicts Mary and the other women caring for Jesus.

### **Station 8 Jesus is laid in the temple**

*“Then he took it down [Jesus’ body], wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had been laid” (Luke 23:53).*

This was better treatment than many received after crucifixion. He was laid to rest in a tomb provided by a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. After Jesus died, Joseph went to Pilate secretly and requested the body of Jesus so that he might provide a proper burial.

### **The Garden**

*Jesus said, “Because I live, you shall live also” (John 14:19).*

By continuing into the garden, we remember the resurrection. On Easter, we celebrate the empty tomb and new life springing forth. If you look carefully at the mural, you will see the image of three crosses in the distance. They are all empty.

God does something amazing: death itself could not contain the love, grace and mercy of Jesus. We walk the stations of the cross, remembering the stories of Good Friday. Our hearts, though heavy, will be lifted—pulled out of the darkness, for on Sunday we will proclaim, “Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed!”