

THE WAY
OF THE
CROSS



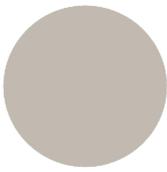
FIFTEEN DAY

JOURNEY



RENEWAL
CHURCH

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EVERY YEAR,

Easter seems to come and go. We dress a little nicer for a day, eat sugar covered marshmallow bunnies, and eat a big meal with friends and family. Generally, I like those things (Except for getting dressed up). But this year I want to invite you on an Easter journey that is better than bowties, bunnies, and big meals.

For over a thousand years, Christians worldwide have prepared for the great Easter celebration through tracing Jesus' journey during the last few days of his earthly life. Eventually this journey came to be known as the stations of the cross, or simply, *The Way Of The Cross*. For generations, it has been a powerful way to reflect upon, and enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. I want to invite you on this journey as way to experience the love that Jesus has for you and the reality of his presence in your life.

How does it work? Each day for the next 15 days, you will find art scripture, and a place to write a reflection and prayer. Take 10 minutes each day to reflect on the art work and scripture. Then take a few minutes to respond to what you have seen and read by writing a prayer or recording your thoughts.

May you come to know Jesus in a deeper way,

Pastor Kevin Sampson

Renewal Church

Easter 2023

Credits

Artwork by Scott Erickson
www.scottericksonart.com

All Scripture is from English Standard Version (ESV)





DAY 1: JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (*Matthew 26:36-41*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





DAY 2: JESUS, BETRAYED BY JUDAS, IS ARRESTED

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. And they laid hands on him and seized him. (*Mark 14:43-46*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 3: JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips." (*Luke 22:66-71*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 4: JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. (*Matt. 26:69-75*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 5: JESUS IS JUDGED BY PILATE

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. (*Mark 15:1-5, 15*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 6: JESUS IS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers wisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. (*John 19:1-3*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





DAY 7: JESUS BEARS THE CROSS

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. (*John 19:6, 15-17*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 8: JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON THE CYRENIAN TO CARRY THE CROSS

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. (*Mark 15:21*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





DAY 9: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” (*Luke 23:27-31*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 10: JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. (*Luke 23:33-34*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





DAY 11:

JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE GOOD THIEF

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (*Luke 23:39-43*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





DAY 12:

JESUS SPEAKS TO HIS MOTHER AND THE DISCIPLE

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (*John 19:25-27*)

Prayer / Reflection _____



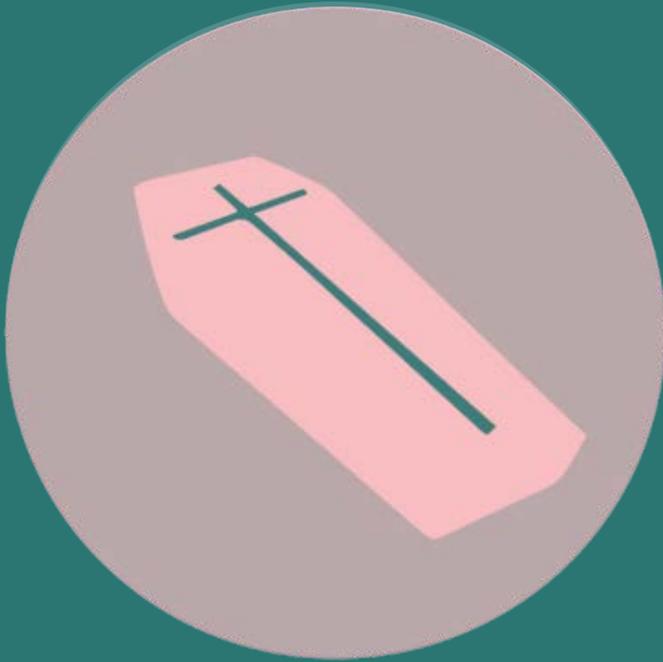


DAY 13: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (*Luke 23:44-46*)

Prayer / Reflection



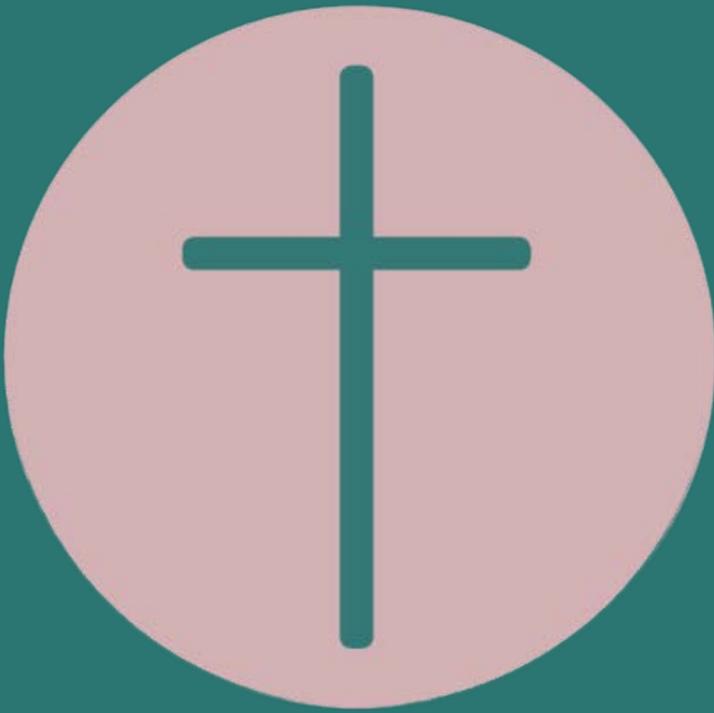


DAY 14: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. (*Matthew 27:57-60*)

Prayer / Reflection





DAY 15: THE GRAVE IS EMPTY . . . CHRIST IS RISEN!

Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” (*Mark 16:5-7*)

Prayer / Reflection _____





THE WAY OF THE CROSS



THANK YOU

Thank you for joining me on this 15-day journey. More than anything, my prayer has been for you to connect with Jesus in a more real and powerful way this Easter season.

Take some time for prayer and reflection AND join us for **Renewal Church's Easter Celebration** at the ARC Center in West Chicago at 9:00am & 10:45am on April 9th.

Looking forward to celebrating with you,
Pastor Kevin Sampson



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