

LENTEN LAMENT FOR
CREATION

24 March 2021

West Side Creation Care Team,
Cleveland, OH



Opening Prayer (Read by Judy)

God of all, we thank You for gathering us together on this Lenten spring evening to focus on our roles in caring for Your creation. We confess our complicity in failing to be good stewards of Your creation. We ask Your forgiveness as we seek to live in the light, walking gently on your earth, looking for ways to replenish what we have taken away, to heal what we have damaged. Please give us the grace to do Your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(adapted from Washington State Interfaith Power & Light)

Closing Prayer (Deacon Leo Bistak)

"Great God of the mountains and the sea and Creator of all that is, we give joyful thanks for the gifts of Your creation. Give us the courage to assume individual and congregational commitments to renewing Your creation through our study, prayer and actions. Thank you for blessing us together in prayer this evening. We pray in the name of Jesus Your Son. Amen."

(adapted from Washing State Interfaith Power & Light)

Call To Worship (WSCCT MEMBER)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: "The heavens are telling the glory of the Lord; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork." *(Psalm 19)*

ALL: All around us are signs and wonders, fingerprints of the Creator. Praise be to God!

Leader: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world, and all who live in it." *(Psalm 24)*

ALL: All around us we find life; all the created world is related to us. Praise be to God!

Leader: Come, let us dwell in God's work of art! Here in this wondrous world we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth.

14TH STATION: (Judy)

Leader: As we gather at the 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

"When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea name Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed."

#3 WSCCT Member: Let us give our resources for creation care.

All: Lord have mercy, may we be ready to serve. May we always be prepared to give our resources for the care of creation.

Comments & Insights (Led by Pastor Dean)

At this time people are invited to share insights or prayers inspired by Stations Of The Cross

Lord's Prayer

Closing Song: The Common Doxology

(By Thomas Ken, 1674)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

ALL: With the waters & the land, with trees & grasses; with fish, birds, & animals, with minerals & creatures of every form; and with all our brothers & sisters. Praise be to God!

Leader: God is good and everything God makes is good.

ALL: Praise to the Creator of all that is seen & unseen ! Amen.

All creatures of our God and King (Lead by Pastor Dean)
(Lyrics from Francis of Assisi, c. 1225, inspired by Psalm 148)

1) All creatures of our God and King Lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam! (CHORUS)	2) Thou rushing wind that art so strong Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along, O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice! (REPEAT CHORUS)
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CHORUS: O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3) Thou flowing water, pure and clear Make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest us both warmth and light. (REPEAT CHORUS)	4) Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
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Reading of 2 Chronicles 30:9: (Read by Suresh)

“For when you return to the Lord, your brethren and your children will find mercy with the captors and return to this land; for merciful and compassionate is the Lord your God, and He will not turn away His face from you if you return to Him.”

Introduction to Nehemiah Center. (Suresh and Pastor Jim Szakacs)

Introduction to West Side Creation Care Team. (Suresh)

Deacon Leo Bistak
Pastor Dean

Introduction to the Stations Of The Cross (Judy)

Creation Stations Of The Cross

(Adapted from scriptural Stations Of The Cross celebrated by Pope John Paul II)

1ST STATION: (Deacon Leo)

Leader: As we gather at the 1st Station: Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane.

“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then He said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with Me.”

#1 WSCCT Member: We experience anguish as we know what is ahead if climate change continues.

ALL: Lord have mercy, help us to hear your will for what we should do

12TH STATION: (Judy)

Leader: As we gather at the 12th Station: 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 of Magdala. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved, 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 into his home.”

#3 WSCCT Member: Let us find strength in one another as we continue on our mission of caring for creation.

ALL: Lord have mercy, that we may find strength in one another.

13TH STATION: (Judy)

Leader: As we gather at the 13th Station: Jesus dies on the Cross.

“It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.’ And when He had said this He breathed His last.”

#3 WSCCT Member: Jesus’ final words on the Cross were to submit Himself to the Father.

All: Lord have mercy, take who we are and what we have. Devote us to carrying out your will.

10TH STATION: (Judy)

Leader: As we gather at the 10th Station: Jesus is crucified.

"When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him and the criminals there, one of His right, the other on His left."

#3 WSCCT Member: Countless times people are persecuted for no reason.

All: Lord have mercy, always be with us when we are being persecuted for the sake of creation.

11TH STATION: (Judy)

Leader: As we gather at the 11th Station: Jesus promises His kingdom to the good thief.

"Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, 'Are You not the Messiah? Save Yourself and us.' The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, 'Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this Man has done nothing criminal.' Then he said 'Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.' He replied to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

#3 WSCCT Member: Let us learn Your way to be creative activists in standing up against greed and abuse.

ALL: Lord have mercy, give us the boldness to stand up against greed and abuse.

2ND STATION: (Deacon Leo)

Leader: As we gather at the 2nd Station: Jesus is betrayed by Judas and is arrested.

"Then, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, 'The man I shall kiss is the one, arrest Him and lead Him away securely.' He came and immediately went over to Him and said, 'Rabbi'. And he kissed Him. At this they laid hands of Him and arrested Him."

#1 WSCCT Member: We are disheartened by incredible betrayals of Your will for the earth and people.

All: Lord have mercy, give us strength to persevere despite betrayals

3RD STATION: (Deacon Leo)

Leader: As we gather at the 3rd Station: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin.

"They brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, 'If You are the Messiah, tell us.' But He replied to them, 'If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' They all asked, 'Are You then the Son of God?' He replied to them, 'You say that I am.' They said, 'What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from His own mouth.'"

#1 WSCCT Member: Help us to defend vulnerable people and all of God's creation who are wrongfully condemned.

4TH STATION: (Deacon Leo)

Leader: As we gather at the 4th Station: Jesus is denied by Peter.

"Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, 'You, too, were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, 'I do not know what you are talking about!' As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, 'This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.' Again he denied it with an oath, 'I do not know the man!' A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, 'Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.' At that he began to curse and to swear, 'I do not know the Man.' And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: 'Before the cock crows you will deny Me three times.' He went out and began to weep bitterly."

#1 WSCCT Member: Only with God's grace are we able to continue despite repeated failing.

ALL: Lord have mercy, speak to us and be with us even as we fail.

8TH STATION: (Suresh)

Leader: As we gather at the 8th Station: Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian.

"They pressed into service a passerby, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross."

#2 WSCCT Member: How do we encourage one another to work towards a new earth? How do we encourage new people to help God's creation?

ALL: Lord have mercy, give us the will to support creation care initiatives.

9TH STATION: (Suresh)

Leader: As we gather at the 9th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

"A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned & lamented Him. Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

#2 WSCCT Member: Exploitation of the planet and its resources is most likely to hurt poor and disadvantaged people.

All: Lord have mercy, help us to fight for the weak. Guide us in preventing the powerful from destroying the lives of the poor by exploiting the planet and its resources.

6TH STATION: (Suresh)

Leader: As we gather at the 6th Station: Jesus is scourged and crowned with crowns.

"Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on His head, and clothed Him in a purple cloak, and they came to Him and said, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they struck Him repeatedly."

#2 WSCCT Member: Climate change causes untold suffering.

ALL: Lord have mercy, grant us patience in times of suffering that we may make sacrifices to protect your creation.

7TH STATION: (Suresh)

Leader: As we gather at the 7th Station: Jesus bears the Cross.

"They cried out, 'Take Him away, take him away! Crucify Him!' Pilate said to them, 'Shall I crucify your king?' The chief priests answered 'We have no king but Caesar.' Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the Cross Himself He went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha."

#2 WSCCT Member: Fighting to save creation is a burden that we must be prepared to carry, with God's grace.

ALL: Lord have mercy, give the church and its people the strength to lead the way in creation care.

5TH STATION: (Suresh)

Leader: As we gather at the 5th Station: Jesus is judged by Pilate.

"They bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned Him, 'Are You the King Of The Jews?' He said to him in reply, 'You say so.' The chief priests accused Him of many things. Again Pilate questioned Him, 'Have You no answer? See how many things they accuse You of.' Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas, and handed Jesus over to be crucified."

#1 WSCCT Member: We are weak and may be falsely accused while carrying out Your work. Lord, please give us the courage to continue.

ALL: Lord have mercy, as we struggle and face failure in the fight to save the planet and all species under our care.