



The Anglican Parish of
Saint Barnabas

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We warmly welcome all visitors this morning. If you are new to St. Barnabas or would like to participate more fully, please complete the yellow form on the back of the pews and put it on the collection plate.

GOOD FRIDAY: THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
April 2, 2010

Stations of the Cross for Children

Opening Hymn #152 “Where You There When They Crucified My Lord?” Vs. 1-2

Greeting: We come here to remember the experiences of Jesus during Holy Week and especially on Good Friday, the day he died on the cross. We remember his suffering and death out of love for us. We remember also his resurrection from the dead three days later. Today we walk the way of the cross of Jesus.

Station 1: Jesus enters Jerusalem

It was almost time for the Passover feast. People came from all over the country every year to celebrate in the great city of Jerusalem. Passover was a special holiday for the Jewish people to remember how God had brought their ancestors out of Egypt. During the feast everyone went to the temple to worship God, told wonderful stories, and ate special meals.

Jesus and his friends were traveling to Jerusalem, too. As they came close to the city, Jesus sent two of them with special instructions to bring a donkey for him to ride on. The disciples found the donkey and threw their coats over its back for Jesus to sit on. Then they brought the donkey to Jesus so that he could ride it into the city.

When the people in the crowd saw Jesus coming they were very excited. They threw their coats down on the road and welcomed him as they would welcome a king. Others cut down branches from the trees and threw them down in front of the donkey.

(Place paper palms in the aisle of the church.)

Crowds went ahead and crowds of people followed, all of them shouting with joy.

All: Hosanna, hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.

But there were some leaders in Jerusalem who were not happy to see Jesus arrive. “We will have to do something about this man. Too many people want to follow him,” they snarled to each other.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to us in peace on a donkey. May we always approach each other in the spirit of peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Station 2: A Woman Anoints Jesus' head with Oil

When Jesus was in Bethany, he visited his friend Simon, the leper. A woman who was with them opened an expensive jar of oil and began to put it on Jesus' head.

Some of the people who were there were angry. "Why was this expensive oil wasted?" the wondered. "It could have been sold and the money given to the poor."

(Children will have their heads anointed with oil.)

Jesus told these people to leave the woman alone. "You will always have the poor with you," he said, "but you will not always have me. She has anointed my head for burial, and whenever my story is told, she will be remembered."

Jesus' friends did not understand what he meant when he spoke of his burial.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for remembering those who showed you kindness. Help us to always remember those who are kind to us. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 3: The Last Supper

Later Jesus and his friends were gathered to share the Passover meal. While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He broke it into pieces and gave a piece to each of his friends. Then he said something very surprising. Instead of saying the usual prayer over the bread he said, "Eat this bread and remember me." Then he held up the cup of wine, and again instead of saying the usual prayer he said, "Drink this, and remember me." The wine was passed around so everyone could drink.

(The children share in the bread and "wine.")

Jesus' friends were puzzled. They wondered what it all meant.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to always remember the last meal you shared with your disciples. May we continue this tradition by breaking bread with each other. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 4: In the Garden

After the meal, Jesus asked some of his friends to go with him to a garden on the Mount of Olives. It was very dark and the friends were very sleepy. One by one they fell asleep.

(Children are invited to pretend to sleep.)

Jesus was also very tired, but could not sleep. He knew that there were people who wanted to hurt him. Jesus prayed that God would be with him and help him to be strong.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to stay alert for you. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 5: Judas Betrays Jesus

Soldiers came to the garden with swords and clubs, and arrested Jesus. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, was leading them. No one could believe it. Judas was their friend, but he had told the soldiers where to find them.

Judas had told the soldiers he would kiss Jesus. That way, the soldiers would know who Jesus was and arrest the right man. Jesus' friends could not believe that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

When the disciples saw what was happening they were so afraid that they ran away. Jesus was left alone.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, forgive us for those times we betray those who are closest to us. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 6: Jesus is arrested and taken to Pilate

The soldiers took Jesus to the leaders. The leaders had decided that Jesus must die, so they took him to a man called Pilate. Pilate was the man in charge of the whole country. He was very important. Pilate had the power to decide what would happen to Jesus.

Pilate talked to Jesus. He thought that Jesus had done nothing wrong. But the religious leaders had brought crowds from all over Jerusalem to Pilate's palace. They wanted the crowd to convince Pilate to have Jesus killed. They stood outside yelling:

All: "Kill him! Kill him!"

Pilate tried to talk to them. "This man has done nothing wrong," he said. But the crowd shouted louder and louder:

All: "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that the crowd was getting angrier, he gave up. He was afraid the people would attack his palace. He took a basin of water and washed his hands in front of them. "Look," he shouted, "I am washing my hands of this whole situation. It is not my fault that Jesus is going to die." Then he handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be killed.

(The children are invited to come forward and dip their hand in the water.)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to recognize your truth in our lives. May we never turn away from you and your love. Help us to do what you ask us. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 7: Peter Denies Jesus

After Jesus was arrested, a servant girl saw Peter warming himself by a fire. "You were with Jesus of Nazareth," she said. But Peter replied:

All: I do not know Jesus of Nazareth.

A rooster crowed. The servant girl began to say to the people around her, "this man is one of them." Peter replied:

All: I do not know Jesus of Nazareth.

After a little while, one of the people in the crowd said to Peter, "You must be one of them because you are a Galilean." Peter made a solemn vow:

All: I do not know Jesus of Nazareth.

A rooster crowed for the second time. Peter remembered that Jesus had said that he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed twice. Peter wept.

Prayer: Jesus, forgive us for the times that we put ourselves before you. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 8: Jesus Dies

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and beat him. Then they took him out of the city to a place called "Skull Hill." There they placed him on a cross between the two other thieves, and they waited for him to die. It was a terrible day for everyone who loved Jesus. It seemed as if the whole world had gone dark.

(The children assist in placing Jesus on the cross).

Prayer: Dear Jesus, you gave up your life for us. May we live our lives for you. Help us to follow your way in all things. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Station 9: Jesus is Buried

Jesus died on Friday afternoon. A rich man called Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross. The body was wrapped in a white cloth and laid in Joseph's family's tomb. It was a cave in a beautiful garden. Joseph had some strong men roll a big stone over the opening. Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb and make sure that no one disturbed Jesus' body.

(The children place Jesus' body into the tomb).

Now you might think that this is the end of the story. The friends of Jesus did. They were sad and afraid. Jesus was dead and they thought that was the end of everything. But this isn't the end of the story. In fact, it is only the beginning. Something wonderful was about to happen. God gave us an amazing surprise to the people! On Sunday, we will discover how the disciples' sadness turned to joy.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to have courage to follow you publicly in all things. May we come forward when it matters and not be afraid. **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Remember Me

Concluding Prayer: Dear God, out of love for us you sent your only Son, Jesus. Help us to say yes to your call in our lives. We acknowledge our failings and weaknesses and ask your help to live lives pleasing to you. May we follow the example of Jesus Christ in all we do. Help us to remember your great love for us not only today but always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #152: "Where You There When They Crucified My Lord?" Vs. 3-5