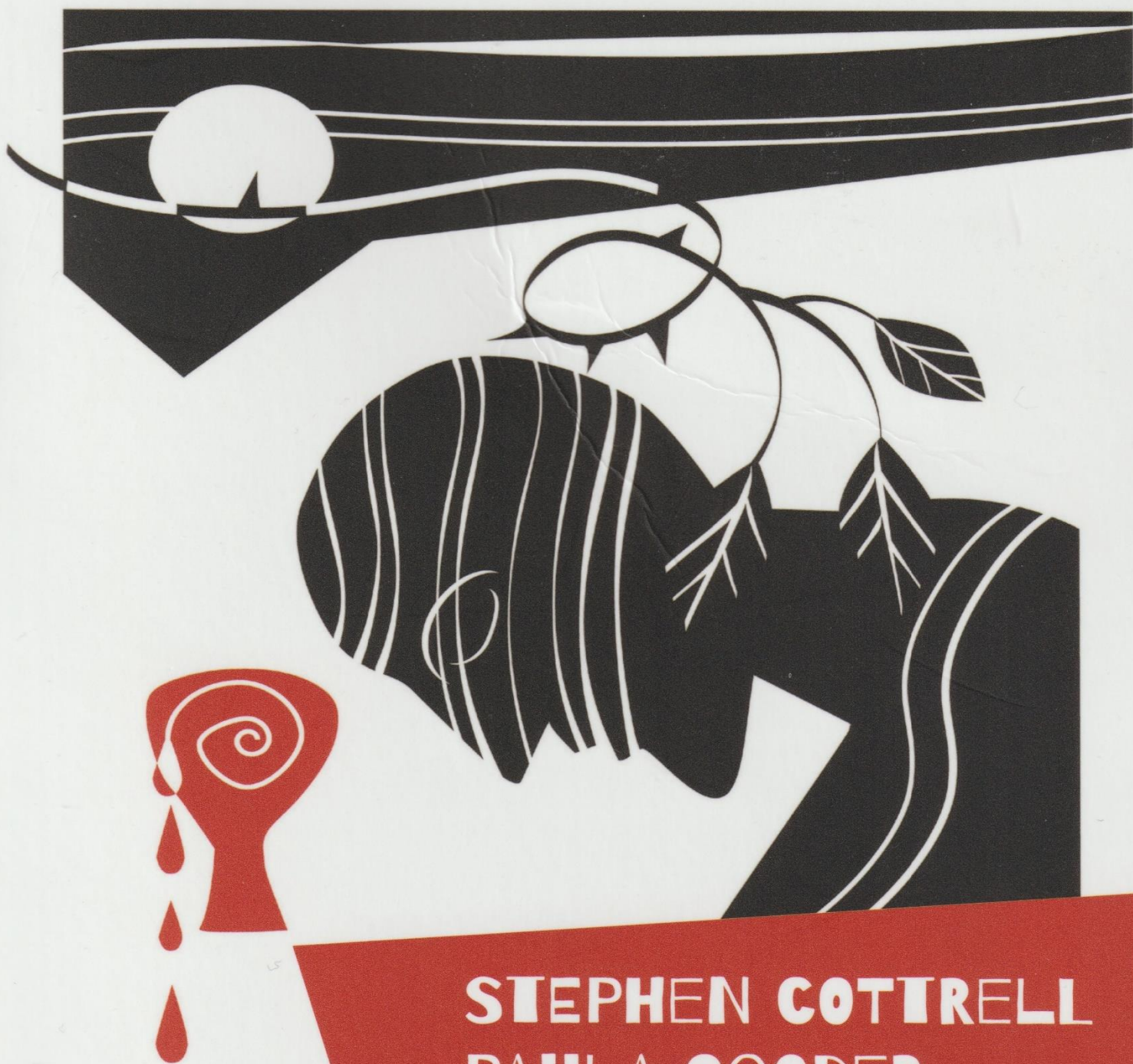


WALKING **THE** WAY OF **THE** CROSS

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS ON THE
BIBLICAL **STATIONS** OF **THE** **CROSS**



STEPHEN COTTRELL
PAULA GOODER
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The Gathering

The ministers enter in silence.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit,

All **Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Matthew 16.24, 25

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2.13, 14

An appropriate greeting may be given.

A minister may introduce the service and then says

Let us pray.

A brief moment of silence follows.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience
and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

¶ *Tenth Station:*
Jesus is crucified

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All **because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Mark 15.24

Reflection / Meditation

Reflection or meditation may follow.
See pages 72–74.

*Tenth Station:
Jesus is crucified*

Reflection A

by Philip North

They divided his clothes among them

The God of all creation. The one whom angels worship. The Lord of the universe. Yet look at him now: stark naked, humiliated before a mocking crowd.

Jesus has lost everything. His friends have run away. His possessions have been taken from him. His clothes have been shared out amongst the soldiers. He literally has nothing. And in the eyes of those who are crucifying him, he is nothing.

In this moment of nakedness, Jesus symbolizes the whole human condition. None of us has anything. We enter the world naked and we leave it naked. Our proud achievements, our wealth, our learning, our accumulated power are nothing. We are nothing.

But in this moment, as God shares in our nothingness, he makes our nothingness into something. He is God. He is everything. So as he shares the human condition, that condition is charged with the glory of the divine life.

Once, at a Eucharist for young people, the priest made a cross of body glitter on the forehead of every teenager and said the words, 'Remember you are dust, destined for glory'. That describes exactly what Jesus is doing in this terrible hour. He has come down to share the nothingness of our lives in order to scoop us up to the presence of God in whose eyes we are everything. Through this act of self-annihilation, God has raised up human life from pointlessness to glory.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven
into your flesh:

transform through the mystery of your love
the pain of those who suffer.

To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

¶ *The Conclusion*

*A response may be made to the preceding stations.
This might take the form of praise, penitence, intercession
or some other relevant action, accompanied by silence
or singing.*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour taught us.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
 Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

One of the following responsories is used

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.

All **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God;

All **to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

(or)

All **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

Christ was manifested in the body,
vindicated in the spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
glorified in high heaven.

All **We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.

All **Amen.**

The ministers depart in silence.