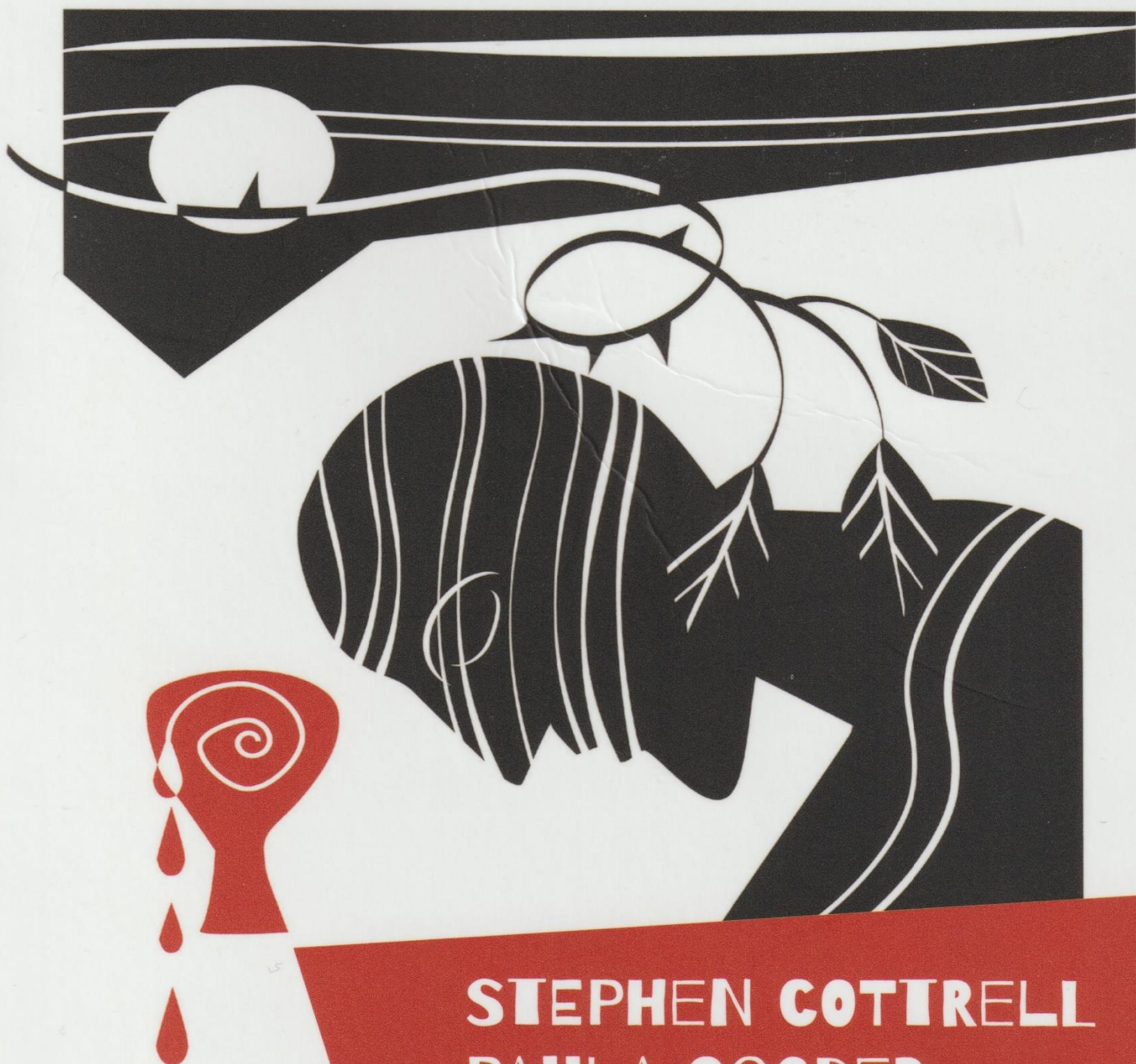


WALKING **THE** WAY **OF THE** CROSS

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



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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.**

¶ *Fourteenth Station:*
Jesus laid in the tomb

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.

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mark 15.46

Reflection / Meditation

Reflection or meditation may follow.
See pages 96–98.

*Fourteenth Station:
Jesus laid in the tomb*

Reflection A

by Philip North

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb

It is a tricky decision and one that confronts many families as they plan the funeral of a loved one. When the final prayers of committal are said, should the curtains that surround the coffin at the crematorium chapel be closed or remain open? What will make the grief easier to bear, the coffin disappearing from sight in a gut-wrenching moment of farewell, or having to walk out of chapel with your back turned to the coffin that encases the remains of the person you love?

We enter into that same ghastly, bitter grief at this station as the body of Jesus is taken down from the cross and laid in a grave. That rolled stone, so heavy that it would take many men to move it, must have pressed home the reality of the women's loss. Jesus is entombed, out of sight, dead, that precious body now lying cold on a stone slab.

Yet this place of darkness is not really a tomb at all. It is a womb. And in just a few days new life will burst forth from it with such power and glory that a stone can't possibly get in the way. This place of death is to be the place of resurrection.

For those funeral families, the sad truth is that there will always be a limit to the comfort that can be found in plans and arrangements. It is from this tomb, the place where death itself is destroyed through the power of Jesus Christ, that we find hope in death and comfort in grief.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing
in the world's eyes.

You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:
be with all who suffer and die in secret,
hidden from the eyes of the world.

To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,
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.