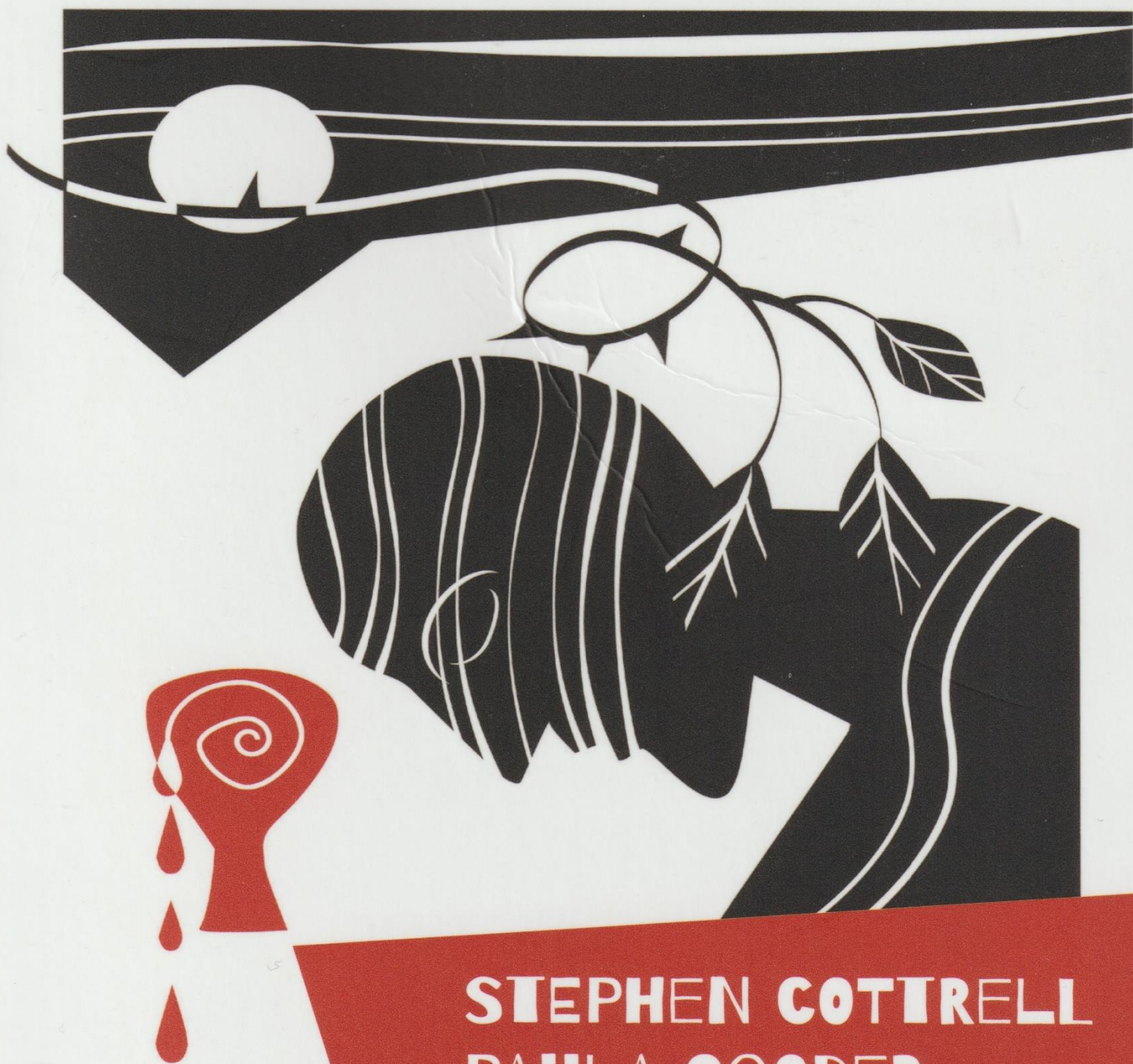


WALKING **THE** WAY OF **THE** CROSS

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



STEPHEN COTTRELL
PAULA GOODER
AND PHILIP NORTH

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.**

¶ *Fifteenth Station:*
Jesus risen from the dead

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.

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16.4-8

Reflection / Meditation

*Reflection or meditation may follow.
See pages 102–104.*

*Fifteenth Station:
Jesus risen from the dead*

Reflection A

by Philip North

'He is not here'

What is the best news you have ever heard in your whole life?

Was it the news of a new baby due to be born into your family? Or a cash windfall? Or a win on the lottery? Was it the news of a new job or a new home?

However good that news may be, it cannot be as good as the news we hear on Easter morning. The body is gone! Jesus is risen! If you accept that explanation of the events of Easter day, then everything about your whole life is changed for ever.

If Jesus is risen, then the things he said about himself were true and we have been set free to live with him for ever. If he is risen, then we are forgiven from sin, liberated from death and called to share with others in a new and risen life.

If he is risen, then the pain and injustice of this world cannot last and the triumph of love is assured. If he is risen, then this is indeed his world, charged with his beauty and power.

Of course, it could all be a sham or a terrible mistake and the body of Jesus is still in a hole somewhere, waiting to be found. If that is the case, then our lives are sad indeed: brutal, short and devoid of purpose.

But if Jesus is risen, then there is a new creation and we are a new Easter people. If Jesus is risen, we are free. That's more than just good news. It's the best news there can ever be.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were dead but now you are alive:
transform the torments of this world's sin
that we may see your radiant glory.

You were raised from death to life:
may the power of your resurrection live in us,
that we may be channels of your true life beyond
measure.

To you, Jesus, who have broken free from the bonds
of death,
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.