STATIONS OF THE CROSS
March 19:
Meditations by The Care of Creation Ministry at the parish of St. Eugene in Asheville, NC; Stations of the Cross by Janet McKenzie
March 26:
Meditations by Fr. Jim Garvey; Stations of the Cross from Santa Fe Cathedral
April 2:
Meditations by Johan van Parys: Stations of the Cross by Lucinda Naylor

Ecological Stations of the Cross

The Care of Creation Ministry at the parish of St. Eugene in Asheville, NC developed the meditations for the Ecological Stations of the Cross devotions with a specific focus on meditative walking as we reflected on the sufferings of Jesus and the damage being done to creation. The meditations were adapted to fit the communities local environmental concerns. They particularly considered those who were abused, stripped of dignity, forced to emigrate, and suffered so that others may live.

Background: “The Way of the Cross can be traced to St. Francis of Assisi, who lived at a time when Christian pilgrims could not travel safely to the Holy Land. Francis brought the experience of the Holy Land home, as we bring the Way of the Cross home to the mountains of Western North Carolina. Reflecting on the sufferings of Jesus at each station, we raise the Cross of Christ to remind us that the Earth belongs to the Creator, and we ask for strength and unity to care for God’s creation.”

Stations meant for Meditative Walking: “You are invited to walk mindfully and meditatively as we move from station to station in this peaceful place. Using our physical, mental and spiritual senses, may we deepen our awareness of these surroundings—air, water, birds—as well as the sounds of humans and machines in the distance.”

“As we walk, we can practice quiet acts of loving kindness, radiating well-wishing in every direction—to the animals, birds, plants and people—all of God’s creation that we encounter. We may smile, inwardly or outwardly, and move quietly, being aware of our footsteps as we slow down and listen.”

While these Stations of the Cross are intended for an outdoor experience, we hope you’ll be able to contemplate here at The Basilica and at home your own familiar walks along trails, lakes, and streets in Minneapolis.
**INTRODUCTION**

*Adoramus te*  
Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

*Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi.*  
We adore you, Christ, and we bless you.  
*Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.*  
For by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**SIGN OF THE CROSS**
THE FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“[Pilate] said to the Jews, ‘Behold, your king!’ 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” (John 19: 14-16).

Reflection: The innocent suffer for the sins of others.
We were present in the Creator’s mind and heart, even before ancient mountains and waters were formed. We are part of the Earth itself, yet we disregard these gifts that we think of as common, ordinary and plentiful. We throw away because there is always more. We burn, discard, and waste until the scarcity is before our eyes. It is only then that we recognize God's resources as gifts, and condemn ourselves to shortages, fears and inequity.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Loving God, in Your generosity You gave us abundance to meet our needs. You gave Jesus as a Gift of love. Forgive us our sins of abuse and neglect. Increase our awareness of the value of your gifts, lest we destroy all that gives us life. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE SECOND STATION

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
**Lector:**
“And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. (Mark 15:20).

**Reflection: We take responsibility for our earth.**
Just as Jesus embraced His burden, those who love Him lift up our solitary world. Sister Dorothy Stang, the “Martyr of the Amazon,” a few days before she was killed by people who were set on destroying the rainforest and displacing peasant farmers, said, “I look at Jesus carrying the cross, and I ask for the strength to carry the suffering of the people.”

**Prayer: (recited by all)**
Precious Jesus, the good Earth is like You, suffering from our sins of thoughtlessness, wastefulness and taking the easy way out. We pray for the strength to take our sins upon ourselves and to become responsible dwellers on this beautiful planet. Amen.

*Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.*
THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls for the First Time

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
‘Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed’ (Isaiah 53:4–5).

Reflection: The fallen state of the environment causes people to emigrate from their homelands.
To the weight of the cross, an even heavier burden is added—the powerful beatings, the lies and betrayals, abandonment by his own disciples, the cruel humiliations. Because Jesus cannot bear the pain, he falls. There are so many times that migrants fall in their journeys. Their Promised Land becomes the journey of the cross as they deal with hatred and obstacles. Only faith in an active God gives them strength.

Prayer: (recited by all)
God of life, we pray for you to protect our brothers and sisters on their journeys, full of risks and dangers, as they escape devastation in their homelands. Help them to overcome obstacles; do not allow families to be separated or lost. Walk with them and lift them up after they fall. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“As one whom his mother comforts, / so I will comfort you; / you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Isa 66:13).

Reflection: Our Mother Earth suffers.
God created the heavens and the Earth, the cradle for every form of life. As mothers hold their babies, the Earth holds every life. Sister Dorothy Stang told people at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, “Mother Earth is not able to provide anymore. Her water and air are poisoned, and her soil is dying from overuse of chemicals, all in the name of profit.” Pray for all of us and for a world where we can all live in peace and harmony—plants, animals and humans.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Loving Jesus, by the sorrow you felt in meeting Your Mother, give me a “heart of compassion” for the Mother that holds me, provides my food, water and air. May I resist choices that destroy the environment. Help me protect the Earth as I would my own Mother. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.

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THE FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus” (Luke 23:26).

Reflection: We speak out in support of marginalized people.
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). The Bible tells us that we are our brothers’ keepers, and guardians of the creation entrusted to us. Our responsibility extends to the threatened environment—the vegetation, animals, water and air—as well as our fellow humans.

Prayer: (recited by all)
O God of compassion, help us to recognize that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers. Like Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry His cross, may we too work to alleviate the suffering of those crushed by the heavy cross of injustice and violence committed against them and their fellow creatures. Amen

*Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.*
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
‘She has done a beautiful thing to me…Truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her’ (Mark 14:6, 9).

Reflection: We recognize the stains of abuse on people and the land.
We need to slow down the hectic pace of our days, looking at the beauty around us. When we look into the faces of people, we may see their suffering, perhaps even their exploitation. Let us look into our own consciences, into the depths of our hearts, and reach out to those in need, those who are victims or those who are alone.

Prayer: (recited by all)
O God, we see the face of your Son reflected in all men and women, and in the whole universe created through him and for him. May our works of charity and justice serve to wipe the bloody face of Christ in our world, so that others may see a glimpse of the glory of God. We commit ourselves to the practice of empathy, to be present to others in their pain and to use our resources to touch and heal. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls for the Second Time

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
‘[Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people.] For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted’ (Hebrews 2:17–18).

Reflection: We stumble through frustration and anger.
Some powerful people exploit resources and less powerful people under the urge for unlimited profit. Illegal loggers and corrupt ranchers in the Amazon stole land from the poor, buying off the police, the military and the government. While defending the poor, Sister Dorothy received death threats and insults, and was arrested for passing out “subversive material,” the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Jesus, you fall to the ground, crushed by the forces of greed, consumerism and politics without soul. Help us to recognize you in those who carry the heavy load of unjust public policies. May we not remain on the sidelines in the struggle for a just and sustainable future. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.

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THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and 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’” (Luke 23:27-29).

Reflection: We weep over the deaths of the innocent.
Our country faces a time of trial—the conflict between a culture that affirms, cherishes and celebrates the gift of life, and one that declares entire groups of beings to be outside the boundaries of protection. To choose life involves rejecting every form of violence—poverty, hunger, armed conflicts—and mindless damage to our environment.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Creator of all, may we resist the culture of death. Like the women of Jerusalem, we weep for our children, who will bear the brunt of global environmental destruction. May our tears purify our vision and empower us to choose life for our children, grandchildren, the powerless and all Your creatures. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls for the Third Time

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
‘Three times I sought the Lord about this [weakness], that it should leave me, but he said to me “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”’ (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Reflection: We need courage to resist despair.
Under the weight of the cross, as the crowds pressed in and the sun glared down, Jesus falls again. As we carry our cross of stewardship for the Earth, we, too, feel anguish as exploitation seems so daunting. Hired assassins, confronting Sister Dorothy as they blocked her way on the road to a meeting with peasant farmers, asked her, “Do you have a weapon?” Showing them her Bible, she answered, “Yes,” and began to read, “Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice. Blessed are the peacemakers…God bless you, my sons.”

Prayer: (recited by all)
Giver of courage, we seek your guidance and ask for strength to boldly acknowledge Your creation and Your people. As Jesus found the strength to rise and fulfill your wishes, give us the resolve to care for your creation and your people, even when the challenges are daunting. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“I can count all my bones—/ they stare and gloat over me;/ they divide my garments among them,/ and for my raiment they cast lots” (Psalm 22:17-18).

Reflection: The rain forests and mountaintops are stripped of their dignity and beauty.
As Jesus was prepared to be crucified, He was stripped of his clothing and mocked as an assault to his dignity. Today the Earth is being stripped of vegetation and nutrient rich topsoil. The Amazon rainforest, the “Lungs of the Earth,” are threatened, losing their ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen to sustain human life. Communities in our own Appalachia suffer from the loss of life-giving plants and clean water, due to mountaintop coal removal.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Creator, help us to seek renewable energy resources and restrain our consumption, so that Your creation will not be stripped of life-giving plants and soil. Open our eyes to see the beauty of Your earth, to breathe deeply of clean air and to be mindful of precious water. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Crucified

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left” (Luke 23:33).

Reflection: We share responsibility for Christ’s pain and the Earth’s exploitation.
Jesus suffered the anguish of nails piercing his hands and feet as his mother and beloved disciple absorbed the scene of injustice and mockery. As we carry our cross of stewardship, we make a commitment to be anchored to the beams of justice, not of convenience. Our hands must prudently use precious resources and our feet work unceasingly for conservation.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Creator of us all, our obliviousness to the wonder and sacred destiny of Your creation, our misguided models of progress—these are like nails with which we crucify you today. May our tears of repentance reawaken us to Your abiding presence in which everything lives and moves and has its being. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“My God, my God, why [have you] forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34)

Reflection: We are often indifferent to those who die.
After living an earthly life that began as a refugee, Jesus dies after being judged a criminal. Today refugees are dying daily from climate change-induced floods, famines and war. Many are tortured, killed, displaced within their own countries, or exploited for the gains of others. How will we respond to those who lack the basic necessities of life?

Prayer: (recited by all)
Jesus, You died on the cross, surrendering your will to the Creator’s, so that we may have life. May we surrender our moral, economic and social decisions to the Creator’s guidance. For only in faith can we move beyond self interest to see the interdependence of all God’s creation. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.

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Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“In order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath . . . the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away” (John 19:31).

Reflection: We feel discouraged, disillusioned, hopeless.
As Joseph of Arimethea and Nicodemus stepped up to care for the lifeless body of Jesus, we must step forward to accept the unjustly abused Earth. We must acknowledge our responsibility to be co-creators with God in the goodness of Creation. As we listen to the birds preparing for spring, and see the bloodroot rising from the brown earth, we quiet ourselves to ponder God’s beauty. We can provide the spark of faith or the seed of hope to blossom for the next generation.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Creator who makes all things new, help us to hold on to our faith, hope and love, even when we feel overwhelmed by the challenges of the ecological crisis. Deepen our courage and use us as instruments of the peace you desire for all creation. Amen.

STABAT MATER

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.
THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

V. We adore you, Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.
Lector:
“Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed” (Matt 27:59-60).

Reflection: We wait with eager longing for the glory of God.
Jesus was laid in the tomb, but it was only an interlude to the resurrection. As we pause at this cleansing wetland named for environmentalist, Dr. Ed Hauser, we think of how the Creator cares for us, even in times of sadness. We must learn to trust that God will provide our needs, not to anguish over our wants. We must trust one another and be responsible stewards of the Earth and its gifts, not consume beyond our needs.

Prayer: (recited by all)
Creator of all, for whom nothing is impossible, help your Church be faithful to you in the midst of adversity. Empower us to bear your dream of justice, peace and harmony for all your creation. Amen.

Please respond at the bidding of the cantor.

STABAT MATER

Sign of the Cross

Adoramus te
Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi.
We adore you, Christ, and we bless you.
Quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.
For by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
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