

## **Station 1 - Jesus is condemned to death**

Guilty, if you think you can save yourself from death!  
Guilty, if you think we are to believe in you!  
Guilty, if you think you are the Son of God!  
Guilty, if you think you are King of the Jews!  
Guilty, if in three days  
you think you can rebuild the Temple!  
Guilty, if you think  
you have committed no crime!  
Guilty, you blasphemer!  
Guilty, you destroyer of the Temple!  
Guilty, you pretender to the throne!  
Guilty, you false Messiah!  
Guilty? Guilty as charged?

Guilty, if you believe God is your saviour!  
Guilty, if you want us to believe it too!  
Guilty, if you believe you are part of divinity!  
Guilty, if you harbour delusions of grandeur!  
Guilty, if believe in the lunacy  
of resurrection!  
Guilty, as your belief in love  
is the root of all violence!  
Guilty, you Bible-basher!  
Guilty, you demeaner of the material!  
Guilty, you challenge to 'Man come of age'!  
Guilty, with your false vision of the spiritual!  
Guilty? Guilty as charged?

## **Station 2 - Jesus takes up his cross**

Jesus and Rome  
head-to-head  
in a clash of cultures.  
Rome is  
angular, aggressive, threatening  
representing  
the oppressive, controlling  
Empire of dominating power,  
with its strength in numbers  
and weaponry,  
which can crucify  
but cannot  
set free.  
Jesus is  
curves and crosses,  
love and sacrifice,  
representing  
the kingdom of God;  
a kingdom of love,  
service and self-sacrifice  
birthing men and women  
into the freedom  
to love one another.  
The way of compassion

or the way of domination;  
the way of self-sacrifice  
or the way of self;  
the way of powerlessness  
or the way of power;  
the way of serving  
or the way of grasping;  
the kingdom of God  
or the empires of Man.

### **Station 3 - Jesus falls for the first time**

Your face, set like flint,  
set towards Jerusalem,  
bears the mark of the cross.  
You carry the cross  
in the resolution  
written on  
your features.  
Death is the choice,  
the decision,  
the destiny,  
revealed  
in the blood,  
sweat and tears  
secreted from  
your face  
in prayerful questions,  
prophetic grief,  
pain-full acceptance,  
as you  
fall  
for the  
first time.

### **Station 4 - Jesus meets his mother**

Mother,  
you bore me  
so that I  
can bear the world  
on my shoulders.

Mother,  
you birthed me  
so that I  
can give birth  
to God's children.

Mother,  
you sheltered me  
so that others  
can find shelter  
under my wing.

Mother,  
you carried me  
so that I  
can carry others  
into heaven's kingdom  
on earth.

Mother,  
you bore me,  
birthed me,  
sheltered me,  
carried me,  
to release me  
and give me  
in broken pieces  
to the world.

Mother,  
in a little while  
you will not see me  
and your heart  
will break.

Mother,  
in a little while  
you will see me  
and the shattered  
shards of your heart  
will be gathered up  
and restored.

### **Station 5 - Simon helps Jesus carry his cross**

Take up your cross:  
accept and use  
your suffering and pain;  
become a servant -  
wash the feet of others;  
give yourself  
for the benefit of others;  
don't walk by on the other side;  
give away your shirt and coat;  
go the extra mile;  
turn the other cheek;  
love your enemies;  
do good to those that hate you;  
love God  
with heart, mind,  
soul and strength;  
love others  
as you love yourself.  
Take up your cross.

### **Station 6 - Jesus meets Veronica**

Jesus is seen  
as you recognise the agony of an other.  
Jesus is seen  
as you respond to pain with relief.  
Jesus is seen  
as you share the shame endured by an other.  
Jesus is seen  
as you are reviled for the sake of an other.  
Jesus is seen  
as you lift a burden from an other's shoulders.  
Jesus is seen  
as you enable an other to regain their footing.  
Jesus is seen  
as you assist an other to arise.  
Jesus is seen  
as you wipe the blood, sweat and tears  
from the face of an other.  
His face imprinted  
on your action.

### **Station 7 - Jesus falls the second time,**

Gravity pulls at your head.  
Sweating blood,  
questioning  
whether this cup can be taken from you.  
Not your will, God's will.

Gravity pulls at your shoulders.  
Red raw,  
wicked wood  
splintering in lacerations.  
Weight of wood pressing down.

Gravity pulls at your legs  
having walked  
the length and breath of the country,  
having knelt  
in prayer in Gethsemene,  
having stood  
while beaten and whipped.  
Gravity pulls you down.

### **Station 8 - Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

Do not weep for me.  
I go to prepare a place  
for you to wait  
in my Father's courts.  
I go to reveal a temple  
not made with human hands.  
I go to return and bring  
the Holy City

from heaven  
to earth;  
God's home with  
humankind –  
no death, no grief  
or crying or pain,  
tears wiped away,  
the healing of the nations.  
Do not weep for me  
but pray.  
Pray for the kingdom come,  
on earth  
as it is in heaven  
for I go to reveal the Temple  
as it has always existed –  
the creation and human story;  
His story.

Weep only for yourselves.  
For the foot of human pride  
will soon descend  
as the armies of the Empire of power  
ring this city  
to crush this Temple  
and destroy.  
How terrible for mothers  
in the violence  
of those days;  
it would be better  
for children not to be  
than to suffer  
in the killing fields.  
Cry for yourselves  
and for your children,  
cry for the mountains  
to fall and hide you,  
cry,  
for the terror  
inflicted by  
the Empires of power  
will be great.

### **Station 9 - Jesus falls the third time**

Falling ...  
when chained  
when whipped  
when bearing a cross

Falling ...  
through weakness  
through tiredness  
through failure

Falling ...  
when pushed

when pulled  
when mocked

Falling ...  
from prestige  
from riches  
from grace

Falling ...  
by stumbling  
by tripping  
by leaping

Falling ...  
into sin  
into poverty  
into depravity

Falling ...  
into the grave  
into debt  
into grace

Falling ...  
through time  
through space  
through eternity

Falling ...  
in love

Falling ...  
into  
the arms of God

Falling ...  
Up

### **Station 10 - Jesus is stripped**

Stripped of equality with God.  
Stripped of glory.  
Stripped of power.  
Stripped of family.  
Stripped of occupation.  
Stripped of possessions.  
Stripped of followers.  
Stripped of respect.  
Stripped of clothing.  
Stripped naked.  
Stripped raw.  
Stripped to the bone.  
Becoming nothing,  
no one,  
everyone.

### **Station 11 - Jesus is nailed to the cross**

What holds you here?  
The cruel nails  
driven into wrists and feet?  
Armed guards  
ringing the base of your cross?  
The crowd  
mocking your purpose and pain?  
The exhaustion  
of a battered and beaten victim?  
A willed commitment  
to a loving, reconciling purpose?

### **Station 12 - Jesus dies on the cross**

Death comes in an agony of mind:  
questioning whether the cup could be withdrawn;  
forsakenness experienced within your very self;  
normality faced as the last temptation.

Death comes in an agony of relations:  
deserted by those who had followed;  
betrayed by one who was your friend;  
forsaken by God, your loving Father.

Death comes in an agony of body:  
evaporation of fluids in wilderness heat;  
steady drip of lifeblood from lacerations and wounds;  
suffocating angle of body pinned to wicked wood.

Death comes in finality.  
"It is finished";  
agony ended,  
purpose fulfilled.

### **Station 13 - Jesus is taken down from the cross**

And a sword pierced her heart,  
as the whip flayed his back,  
as the cross made him fall,  
as the nails pierced his wrists and feet,  
as the spear pierced his side,  
as she held the limp, lifeless adult body  
she had once held, as a newborn babe, to her breast.

## Station 14 - Jesus is laid in the tomb\*

still  
be still  
be still and know  
God  
born  
still God  
still man  
still born  
still born among us  
God  
in flesh appearing  
defenceless  
helpless  
needing us  
all-knowing  
un-knowing  
all present  
confined in space  
a child  
God child  
incarnate  
incarnate still  
be still  
be still and know

still  
be still  
be still and know  
God  
dead  
still God  
still man  
still buried  
still buried in the ground  
God  
in flesh appearing  
defenceless  
helpless  
killed by us  
falling  
buried  
germinating  
growing  
a seed  
God man  
incarnate  
incarnate still  
be still  
be still and know

\* The first verse of this meditation is by Alan Stewart.