Eighth Station **June**

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Halfway through his painful journey, Jesus turns to the women who are crying and suffering with him and says, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” He reminds them that people who love also experience suffering and worry.

These unnamed women of Jerusalem call to mind the many women who ministered with and supported Jesus. As we remember the challenges of the past year, we can see that hidden labor like theirs has sustained many people and families and that we have also had many reasons to worry and to weep.

There is a paradox here in the way Jesus asks us to weep while at the same time also giving us hope, just as Good Friday is meaningful to us because of the hope of Easter. In sadness and difficulty, we reach out to support each other, and we remember our ultimate hope in God’s enduring love.

Reflection Questions: In times of suffering, when have you experienced hope? Who has reached out to you to offer hope? Who might need a message of hope from you?

Leader: We pray…
All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe…

Tenth Station **June**

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Of all the Stations of the Cross, this one might be the most dehumanizing. It's not just that the soldiers strip Jesus of his clothes to reveal his naked, bloodied body. Or that the soldiers are laughing as they do it. The worst part is that it is being done in a public manner–and all anyone can do is watch.

Throughout history, people have been publicly stripped of their clothes and their dignity in plain sight--whether it be enslaved persons that were stripped of their clothes before being sold like cattle, Jews who were stripped of their clothes before being sent to the gas chamber, children stripped of their clothes for pornography, or the filmed lynchings and shootings of Black lives (to name a few). The greatest sin is not that people in power strip others of their humanity. The greatest sin is that so many of us watch these heinous acts happen and we let ourselves be fooled into believing that we have no power to make a difference.

Reflection Questions: When have I witnessed an individual or group of people being dehumanized by society? How is Jesus inviting me to stand up in solidarity with them?

Leader: We pray…
All: Lord Jesus, help us walk in your steps.

Sing: Adoramus te Christe…