Good Friday at St John's, Rogerstone



Song: This is the Story of the cross (Rend Co. Kids)

Introduction

Welcome to St John's in Rogerstone. In this service we will be taking a walk-through Holy week, in a series of interactive stations. Each of the stops on the way will be clearly marked.
At the end of each stop, a bell 🔔 will ring and we will sing the chorus of 'This is the story of the cross', by Rend Co. Kids, as we move to the next station on our journey.

If you have young children with you, welcome it is lovely to see you. To keep everyone safe, please stay together in family groups, especially when outside, as children must be always supervised by an adult.

Let us pray…..

Station 1 (start outside)



READING

John 12:12-15

The large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him.
They shouted,
"Hosanna!"
"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Blessed is the king of Israel!"
Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says,
"City of Zion, do not be afraid.
See, your king is coming.
He is sitting on a donkey's colt."



DO AND THINK

Leader: The crowds had seen and heard about Jesus doing amazing things. They thought he was going to be a king that led an army that saved God's people from oppression.

Pick up some sticks from the ground

Leader: Jesus was going to be a different kind of king. He showed this by riding on a donkey, not a war horse.

Snap your sticks to remind you that Jesus was a peaceful king. He had come to stop fighting and conflict.

Leader: Jesus was coming into Jerusalem to die on a cross.

Make your sticks into the shape of a cross and leave the cross shapes somewhere where other people will see them.

Song – The Story of the Cross - Chorus



Oh oh oh, amazing grace
Oh oh oh, you took my place
Oh oh oh, now I am changed
By your mercy, your kindness.
This is the Story of the Cross

Station 2



READING

Luke 22:1, 7-8, 15-20

The time came for the festival of unleavened bread, known as Passover. "The day of unleavened bread arrived, the day when people had to kill the Passover lamb. Jesus dispatched Peter and John.
'Off you go, he said, 'and get the Passover ready for us to eat.

When the time came, Jesus sat down at table, and the apostles with him. 'I have been so much looking forward to eating this Passover with you before I have to suffer', he said to them. 'For - let me tell you - I won't eat it again until it's fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'
"Then he took a cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and share it among yourselves. "Let me tell you, from now on I won't drink from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Then he took some bread. He gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. 'This is my body, he said, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me'. So too, after supper, with the cup: 'This cup', he said, 'is the new covenant, in my blood which is shed for you.'



DO AND THINK

Leader: Just as God's people would eat a feast of lamb to remember their escape from Egypt, Jesus encouraged his disciples to eat bread and wine to remember his sacrifice for them.

In family groups take some bread and juice and share it amongst yourselves, thanking God and remembering all that Jesus did for us on the cross.

Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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Station 3



READING

John 13:2-5, 12-17

Jesus and the disciples were having their evening meal. The devil had already tempted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. He had urged Judas to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God.

So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord. You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.
What I'm about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him.

Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them.



DO AND THINK

Leader: In this story Jesus shows us how much he loves us and asks us to do what he did.

In family groups/pairs take it in turns to wash each other's hands, in an act of service for your friends and family. Consider other ways that you might be able to show love by serving those in need around you.

Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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Station 4



READING

John 18:1-6

When Jesus had finished praying, he left with his disciples. They crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden. Jesus and his disciples went into it.

Judas knew the place. He was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus had often met in that place with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden. He was guiding a group of soldiers and some officials. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent them. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went out and asked them, "Who do you want?"
"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.
"I am he," Jesus said. Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, was standing there with them. When Jesus said, "I am he," they moved back. Then they fell to the ground.



DO AND THINK

Leader: I wonder why Jesus wasn't hiding from the people who were looking for him. Instead he responded with 'I am he'.

Jesus said I am lots of other times in John's gospel. Look around the church and see if you can find some of these sayings 'hidden' in plain sight..

Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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Station 5



READING

John 18:15-18

Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. The high priest knew the other disciple. So that disciple went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. But Peter had to wait outside by the door. The other disciple came back. He was the one the high priest knew. He spoke to the servant woman who was on duty there. Then he brought Peter in. She asked Peter, "You aren't one of Jesus' disciples too, are you?"
"I am not," he replied.

It was cold. The slaves and officials stood around a fire. They had made it to keep warm. Peter was also standing with them. He was warming himself.



DO AND THINK

Leader: gather up sticks to build a pretend campfire/add to a firepit. Stand around and chat for a few moments about what Peter did. How do you think he might be feeling?

Leader: it was a very difficult time for Peter bit it wasn't the end of the story. Jesus hadn't abandoned Peter. Take the sticks from your pretend fire and make them into the word hope on the ground.

Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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Station 6



READING

John 19:1-6

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, "We honour you, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them,
"Here is the man!"
As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

DO AND THINK

Leader: Just a short while ago the people celebrated Jesus, they thought he would be the kind of King who commanded armies. Now they use the same words to make fun of him and accuse him of crimes he didn't commit.

Take it in turns to put on the toy handcuffs. Talk about how do you think it feels to take the blame for a crime you didn't commit?

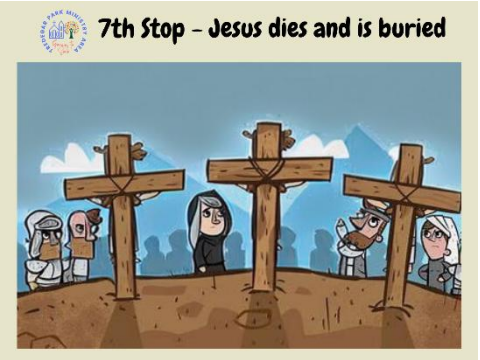
Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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STATION 7



READING

John 19:17b-18, 38-39a, 40-42

They took Jesus away. He carried his own cross and went to the spot called 'Skull Place' (in Hebrew 'Golgotha'). That was where they crucified him. They also crucified two others, one on either side of him, with Jesus in the middle.
Later Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away. Nicodemus went with Joseph. The two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people.

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.



DO AND THINK

Leader: When Jesus died his followers were very sad. They were going to miss Jesus and they were confused that Jesus wasn't the kind of king they expected. It looked like it ended with a gruesome cross.

Spend some time colouring the crosses and think of a time when something didn't turn out the way you expected. Perhaps talk to each other about how you felt about that.

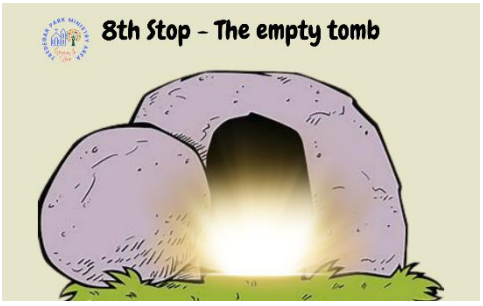
Song – The Story of the Cross (Chorus)



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STATION 8



READING

Luke 24.1-7

The women went to the tomb in the very early morning of the first day of the week, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tome, and when they went in they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

As they were at a loss what to make of it all suddenly two men in shining clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces towards the ground. But the men said to them 'why look for the living with the dead? He isn't here he's been raised! Don't you remember while you were still in Galilee he told you that the son of man must be handed over into the hands of sinners, and be crucified and rise again on the third day. And they remembered his words.

DO AND THINK

Leader: Easter is a time when we celebrate new beginnings. After three days Jesus was resurrected, conquering the cross and pioneering the way to eternal life with God. God had a plan to bring hope and a fresh start out of the cross.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Eggs signify new life, with the shell reminding us of Jesus' empty tomb. There are eggs hidden all around the church. How many can you find?



Song: This is the Story of the Cross

Please do stay after the service for

hot cross buns and drinks.