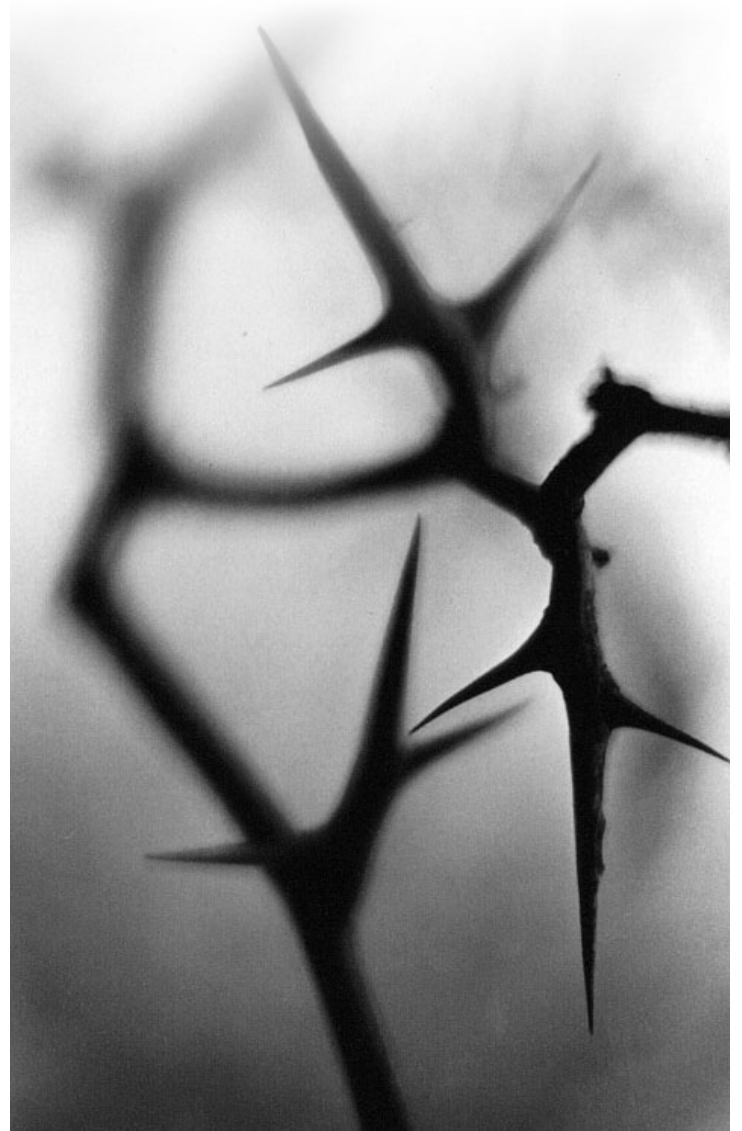


ZPC Prayer Path **Passion Walk**



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Welcome!

The Prayer Path is a 12-station wooded path just south of Zionsville Presbyterian Church woven through the tall trees alongside a tranquil stream. The purpose for this path is to create a prayerful environment surrounded by God's glory to "Be still and know that He is God." Psalm 46:10

Completed in the spring of 2010 with many hours of planning and the hard work of numerous volunteers, the Prayer Path is one way to take a break from the busyness of life. Stop by in the morning on your way to work to walk and pray and you may see a few deer beginning to stir. Bring your lunch to the picnic table at station three and enjoy the rustle of a gentle breeze through the surrounding trees and be still. Or reserve the fire pit at station five by calling 317.873.6503 and bring your small group for discussion under the stars.

How you use this quarter-mile trail is entirely up to you. Check out all the various lesson plans for the Prayer Path at zpc.org/prayerpath.

What is the Passion Walk?

The Passion is the Christian theological term used for the events and suffering — physical, spiritual, and mental — of Jesus in the hours before and including his trial and execution by crucifixion.

The Passion Walk is an interactive experience that includes stations to represent events in Jesus' last hours such as the Last Supper, Peter's denial, Pilate's verdict, and the crucifixion.

You can read the entire account of Christ's Passion in the four gospels:

- > Matthew 26:1–27:66
- > Mark 14:1–15:47
- > Luke 22:1–23:56
- > John 13:1–19:42

» See the Prayer Path map on pages 10 & 11

Station 1

Be Still

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 46:10

Have a seat. Before you start your Passion Journey take a few moments to empty yourself of any worldly concerns. Pray for your eyes and ears to be open to this experience. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you on this "Passion Prayer Walk."

» **When you are ready continue on to Station 2. Stay to your right.**

Station 2

Palm Sunday

The next day the great crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

John 12:12-16

Suggested Activities

- > Run your hand around the ferns and imagine the palms being waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem.
- > Ask yourself: "When was the last time I truly celebrated Jesus' presence in my life?" Offer thanks and praise to God for all of your life at this very moment..
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 3

The Last Supper

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?" "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14:66–72

Suggested Activities

- > Ask yourself: "If I had the chance to eat dinner with Jesus this evening, what would I ask him?"
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 4

The Garden of Gethsemane

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Mark 14:32-38

Suggested Activities

- > Imagine Peter, James, and John asleep on the rocks.
- > Pick up a glass bead and remember the tears that Jesus shed in the Garden.
- > Prayerfully surrender your burden to God: "Not my will, Lord, but your will be done."
- > If you choose, kneel in prayer.
- > Leave the glass bead in the flower pot on your way out of Gethsemane remembering that Jesus holds and cares about all your tears.
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 5

Campfire in the Courtyard

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus" she said. But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

When the servant girl saw him there she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again, he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

Immediately the rooster crowed... Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Mark 14:66-72

Suggested Activities

- > Sit by the campfire. Smell the charred wood. Imagine being Peter, torn between loyalty to Jesus and fear for his own security.
- > Ask yourself: "When have I given in to fear and denied Jesus?"
- > Ask yourself: "Whom do I know who has been wavering in a commitment to me? Ask God for the grace to extend understanding and forgiveness."
- > Look for the rooster nearby. Ask yourself: "Where am I being tempted to deny Jesus right now?"
- > Ask God to forgive you for the moments in which you have failed Jesus, and to reinstate you to fullness of life in him, just as he did for Peter. If you choose, you can read about how that happened in John 21:15-23.

Station 6

Flogging in the Praetorium

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!"

Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Mark 15:16-20

Suggested Activities

- > Touch the sharp thorns.
- > Ask yourself: "Do I expect that following Jesus should make my life harder or easier?"
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 7

Pilate's Judgment Seat

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God..." "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

John 19:4-7, 12b-16

Suggested Activities

- > Imagine bearing the responsibility for the life or death of Jesus.
- > Dip your hands in the bowl of water.
- > Ask yourself: "When did I most recently, like Pilate, wash my hands of my loyalty to Jesus?"
- > Ask yourself: "What public responsibility do I need to accept right now, in order to bless others?"
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 8

The Crucifixion

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Matthew 27:33-44

Suggested Activities

- > Imagine yourself at the foot of the cross. Ask yourself: "How can I live in such a way to more fully express my gratitude to God for this gift?" If you choose, kneel before the cross and pray.
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 9

King of the Jews

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Matthew 27:45-50

Suggested Activities

- > Ponder the "seven last words of Jesus."
- > Imagine what Jesus would have said to you.
- > Reflect for a moment. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 10

The Tomb

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

John 19:38-42

Suggested Activities

- > Approach the closed door.
- > Ask yourself: "Do I believe that the Jesus I worship is fully alive...or still in this tomb?"
- > Open the door to see a new life on the other side of death, the life Jesus meant for all of us.
- > Ask yourself: "To whom do I need to pass along a word of hope today?"
- > Reflect for a few moments. Then pray, "Thanks, Lord, for what you did for me."

Station 11

Reflection

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

John 17:15-19

The night before he died Jesus prayed for his disciples—and for all of his future followers as well. We know that in the midst of his Passion his friends failed him. "Then everyone deserted him and fled" (Mark 14:50).

It is not easy to walk with Jesus. It is not easy to stand for Jesus – whether at home, at work, at school, or in the world.

Nevertheless, he prayed for us. He is praying for us still. How will you leave this passion walk experience? Will you trust him with more of your heart, your mind, your soul, and your strength?

How can this experience help you become more outward focused—giving away the blessings with which God has blessed you? Ask God to give you his grace, so that you might go with his Spirit, his love, and the fullness of his blessing.

Station 12

Departing

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* John 8:12

- > Look at the Lamppost. Imagine the light of Christ inside your heart just like the light is inside the lamp.
- > Pray: Lord Jesus, come into my heart and guide my steps. Be a light unto my path as I go from this place into a dark world. Amen

An Ongoing Encounter With God's Word

**You can read the entire account of
Christ's Passion in the four gospels:**

Matthew 26:1–27:66

Mark 14:1–15:47

Luke 22:1–23:56

John 13:1–19:42