Jesus’ dead body was removed by devoted friends with the aid of Roman soldiers and then placed in the arms of his grief-stricken mother. There are no words of condolence for this moment.

This radical loss of everything continues to be felt in human lives – those without enough food, clothing, shelter, education, respect, dignity, human rights, and community.

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD’s praise, for he has been good to me.

Psalm 13
New International Version
THE THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS
No suggestion or even promise of resurrection could ease the sorrow that filled the hearts of the women who followed Jesus. They were denied the opportunity to channel their grief by performing the traditional ritual before entombment. With compassion and care, families and friends would anoint their loved one’s body with embalming spices and ointment before wrapping it in linens and resting it in a rocky tomb.

The family and friends of those who have died of COVID have been largely unable to gather together safely to mourn the loss of their loved ones. Rituals have the potential to offer us helpful words, symbols, movements, time, permission, and space for recognizing and experiencing our grief. It is by being present with and processing our grief that we create the possibility for our experience of sorrow to shift and change.

You are invited to take this moment to be present with any grief that you may be carrying – for yourself, your loved ones, or the world.

You are invited to hold a stone in your hand while you spend time with your grief, and when you are ready, drop the stone in the water. While it may seem like rock is unyielding and impervious, the forces of wind and water have the power to change its shape over time. So too is the possibility grief’s transformation through God’s love.

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

Psalm 30:11
New Revised Standard Version
THE FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB
The good news in the Christian tradition is that death and the forces of oppression do not have the last word. This hope is found in the story of Easter, when Jesus is resurrected to life after three days through God’s power, love, and commitment.

Jesus is often referred to as the “Incarnation” and understood to be God’s word made flesh. Jesus was the example of God’s love made tangible as he addressed the deep needs of his community by healing the sick, comforting the troubled, and challenging oppressive practices and systems.

As members of the human family, we are also invited to respond to the pressing needs of our time with love, justice, and humility. In this way, we are the new incarnation, the hands and feet of God. For in the many different ways we act as allies and advocates – perhaps providing bread to the hungry and/or asking why the hungry have no bread – we make divine power, love, and commitment visible in our world.
SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Check out these (mostly) local organizations and opportunities to learn more and get involved in some of the concerns mentioned in the exhibit.

ALLYSHIP
VERMONT PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER
WWW.PJCVT.ORG
60 LAKE ST., SUITE 1C, BURLINGTON
Working to abolish the prison industrial complex by advocating for all women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people impacted by the legal system and educating to promote an alternative vision for communities.

BLACK LIVES
VERMONT RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE
WWW.VTRACIALJUSTICEALLIANCE.ORG
Aims at securing sustainable power, ensuring agency, and providing security for American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), while embracing their history and preserving their culture.

FOOD INSECURITY
FEEDING CHITTENDEN
WWW.FEEDINGCHITTENDEN.ORG
1228 N. WINOOSKI AVE, BURLINGTON
Provides food, community, and opportunity for our neighbors facing hunger and food insecurity.

GRIEF
COVID GRIEF NETWORK
WWW.COVIDGRIEFNETWORK.ORG
Offering free grief support for young adults grieving the illness or death of someone close to COVID-19.

HOMELESSNESS
VIRTUAL ACTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS
THUR APR 15 @ 6:30 - 8 PM
Vermont Interfaith Action hopes to build on the efforts to house our precariously housed neighbors during the pandemic to create long-term solutions to homelessness in the state. They’ll present their research, share personal stories, and request commitments from the VT House and State Appropriations Committees to make this goal a reality. Register at https://fb.me/e/auyXRIKYI

COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER (CTS)
WWW.COTSONLINE.ORG
Advocates for long-term solutions to end homelessness and provides emergency shelter, services, and long-term housing for Vermonters who are experiencing homelessness or are marginally housed.

OUTRIGHT VERMONT
WWW.OUTRIGHTVT.COM
241 N. WINOOSKI AVE, BURLINGTON
Works to build a Vermont where all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power.

PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
WOMEN’S JUSTICE & FREEDOM INITIATIVE
WWW.WJFI.ORG
187 ST. PAUL ST., SUITE 103, BURLINGTON
Works to abolish the prison industrial complex by advocating for all women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people impacted by the legal system and educating to promote an alternative vision for communities.

WOMEN
VERMONT COMMISSION ON WOMEN
WWW.WOMEN.VERMONT.GOV
126 STATE ST., 2ND FLOOR, MONTPELIER
An independent non-partisan state government commission to advance rights and opportunities for women and girls in Vermont.

WORKER JUSTICE
MIGRANT JUSTICE
WWW.MIGRANTJUSTICE.NET
179 S. WINOOSKI AVE., UNIT 202
Builds the voice, capacity, and power of the farmworker community and engages community partners to organize for economic justice and human rights.
A meditative, interactive exhibit edited and curated by Rev. Laura C. Engelken, Director of Interfaith Education & Engagement, The University of Vermont (Mar/April 2021).


Primary Resources for Composing Text:
- [http://sjpcommunications.org/files/liturgy/actstations_0.pdf](http://sjpcommunications.org/files/liturgy/actstations_0.pdf)
- [www.paxchristiusa.org/StationsoftheCross.pdf](http://www.paxchristiusa.org/StationsoftheCross.pdf)

Additional Resources:
Additional Resources: (continued)