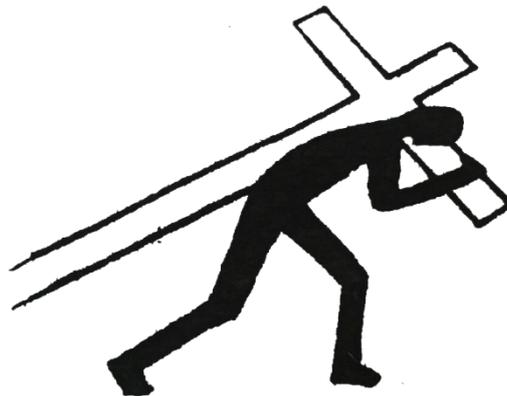


Stations of the Cross

'Walking with Jesus and Refugees'



Liturgy produced by London Churches Social Action

First produced for an event in Westminster and Whitehall, March 2015.



LONDON CHURCHES
SOCIAL ACTION

This form uses the 'traditional' form of the Stations of the Cross.
Some may prefer to adapt the liturgy to use the 'Scriptural Way of the Cross'
www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/documents/ns_lit_doc_via-crucis_en.html
or the 'New Way of the Cross'
http://visitaiglesia.net/ph/?page_id=37

1. Jesus is condemned to death

Westminster Cathedral

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for
I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt 11: 28-30.)

Reflection Immigrants dying at sea, in boats which were vehicles of hope and
became vehicles of death. That is how the headlines put it. When I first
heard of this tragedy a few weeks ago, and realized that it happens all
too frequently, it has constantly come back to me like a painful thorn in
my heart. So I felt that I had to come here today, to pray and to offer a
sign of my closeness, but also to challenge our consciences lest this
tragedy be repeated. ... "Has any one of us wept because of this
situation and others like it?" Has any one of us grieved for the death of
these brothers and sisters? Has any one of us wept for these persons
who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies?
For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their
families? We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to
experience compassion – "suffering with" others: the globalization of
indifference has taken from us the ability to weep! .. let us ask the Lord
for the grace to weep over our indifference, to weep over the cruelty of
our world, of our own hearts, and of all those who in anonymity make
social and economic decisions which open the door to tragic situations
like this. "Has any one wept?" Today has anyone wept in our world?

(Pope Francis in Lampedusa, 8th July 2013.)

Prayer Lord, in this liturgy, a penitential liturgy, we beg forgiveness for our
indifference to so many of our brothers and sisters. Father, we ask your
pardon for those who are complacent and closed amid comforts which
have deadened their hearts; we beg your forgiveness for those who by
their decisions on the global level have created situations that lead to
these tragedies. Forgive us, Lord! (Pope Francis.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

2. Jesus carries his cross

Ministry of Justice

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58: 6-8.)

Testimony “I had an appointment with a female lawyer from [provider firm]. She said my case looked good and she would return to visit me with an interpreter - but she never came back. I thought she had taken my case, and tried to contact her repeatedly, but got no response - no call, letter, nothing. It's been 6 months since I saw her.”

“All my friends in here have the same problem as me. We meet the lawyers, they tell us not to worry, and then they never come back or even tell us if they've taken our case or not - and for a few months we are hopeful and think they have. They don't respond to our calls and we lose hope. I have no money, so I have nothing to do but wait” [translated from Urdu].

(Oral evidence to APPG Detention Inquiry, March 2015 p.46.)

Prayer We pray for those who have come to our own nations to find refuge. Some will be held in detention, others are inadequately supported. All will be separated from their loved ones. Help those who minister to them to meet their need with compassion and understanding. We pray for those who make judgements on asylum seekers, that they may bring justice and mercy where there is need. May your church welcome the stranger in our midst and build the new community. (From 'Unlocking the Doors', 2002.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

3. Jesus falls the first time

Department of Work and Pensions

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25: 31-40.)

Poem Each journey entails a hundred possibilities.
I have been thinking all my life
To make my way to this land,
Many of us called the rich land.
But when I reached
This so-called rich land,
It's like a white storm,
The whole land is so cold
As Arctic
With no home, no shelter.

(‘Destitute’ by ‘Naz’, JRS-UK Community Blog, 27/06/2013.)

Prayer Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today
are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Anglican Church.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

4. Jesus meets his mother

Department of Health

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2: 33-35.)

Testimony Yes, we live in fear. The daily emails and phone calls are a constant fear. With no work and no money, we live in terrible situations. We have no choice. The day is an ordeal. Wherever we are, our dignity is violated. Nobody respects us. We are exposed to begging and pity, obliged to rely every day on charity. Our heart is never at peace because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. The exile is like a chick without its mother hen, exposed to all predators. For exiles, our only hope is God, divine providence.

(‘Malan’, West African Refugee, via , JRS-UK Community Blog, 19/07/2013.)

Prayer Lord Jesus, Saviour and shepherd,
teacher, brother, sister, friend of all races,
As a child you lived in Egypt,
dwelling among strangers,
among unfamiliar customs,
hearing foreign tongues,
worshipping the unknown God ;
Lord Jesus, your family was different, alien:
you understand the exile, the refugee.
Help us, Lord, to understand as you do,
to bring into our homes and our hearts those who flee to our country,
fearing for their lives.
Protect them from lukewarm welcomes.
Lord, let us make your heart rejoice
as we learn to love one another.
(Barbara d’Arcy, CAFOD.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus

Ministry of Defence

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23: 26.)

Testimony Seven long years passed before people returned to my village of Tramosnica. Nevertheless, in the meantime, my soul was peaceful... Waiting is beautiful if you have someone to share it with, and the hope of a better tomorrow... We overcame our grief with forgiveness, praying and caring for others... In work I meet many volunteers from different continents... they have given us great happiness... Many people cannot understand why someone from faraway wants to come to our ruins and dirt and clean them for nothing... Only if you give will you get, you become a happy person. Happiness should be spread and not saved... Let us continue being like water, which everyone can drink, so we can live.

(Sr. Berta Puskaric, Jesuit Refugee Service Bosnia Volunteer, in 'War Has Changed Our Life, Not Our Spirit: Experiences of forcibly displaced women', JRS, February 2001.)

Prayer Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is discord, union,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy,
for your mercy and truth's sake.
(St Francis.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

6. Veronica wipes Jesus' face Department of Energy and Climate Change

**All We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7: 44-50.)

Testimony No consideration is given to an asylum seeker who is like a wandering dog that nobody wants, always with begging hands outstretched. As it is said, "a hungry man is not a free man". We do not have a choice because we must live. It is a struggle for survival, a struggle that leads to marginalization. First from those who are close to us – parents and friends – and then from those we approach to ask for help. In all administrative and social structures, we are frowned upon, we are cumbersome.

(‘Malan’, West African Refugee, via JRS-UK Community Blog, 19/07/2013.)

Prayer Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of men and women;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry.
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers.
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick.
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoners free;
In sharing our anxiety and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we
partake of your divine presence. Amen.
(A Prayer of Commitment , Zimbabwe.)

**All Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

7. Jesus falls the second time

St Martin-in-the-Fields

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. (Ephesians 2: 19-20.)

Testimony Life is not easy for an exile living in a foreign country. We are exposed to all kinds of danger: an accident, an illness. Here, life does not make sense. Our thoughts are always focused on the decisions that the immigration authorities will take against us. During this time, we live in fear and hope. Our faith becomes greater because we think that God can intervene. Our life is divided between fear and hope.

(‘Malan’, West African Refugee, via , JRS-UK Community Blog, 19/07/2013.)

Prayer Almighty God, we give you thanks for every way in which we experience Britain as a place of diversity, safety and opportunity. We pray for all who have come to this country in search of a welcome, and for the persecuted who have come in search of sanctuary. We pray for those in the UK Border Agency who have the responsibility, freely to admit those who have a right to be admitted, and resolutely to protect our borders from those who wish us harm. May they have wisdom, fair-mindedness and pride, in the difficult and important work they do on our behalf. We pray that the tradition of providing sanctuary to those forced to flee their homes through persecution, may be preserved; and may each of us as citizens show hospitality to refugees who are among us now, and so safeguard the concept of sanctuary for the future. May the communities we belong to thrive in diversity and peace, and may our citizenship in the UK, reflect the open and inclusive citizenship of heaven. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen. (Citizens for Sanctuary Prayer, 2009.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

8. Jesus meets women of Jerusalem Department for International Development

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19: 33-34.)

Testimony “Suicide watch, I think, they just made it to put you under even more mental torture. If you’re on suicide watch and your health is not good, but it’s not that bad, suicide watch can make it more bad. And I can tell you, anybody who is suicide watch has sexual harassment in Yarl’s Wood, because those male guards they sit in there watching you at night, sleeping and being naked. You can hear them talking it. So, that suicide watch, people who are on suicide watch don’t need officers, they need doctors, not officers sitting at their door, they need doctors or psychologists who will sit at their door and talk to them.”

(J, Oral evidence to APPG Detention Inquiry, March 2015 p.57.)

Prayer Lord Jesus,
You know how it feels to be a refugee;
to be rejected by your own flesh and blood;
to have no voice, no power, no home;
to be misunderstood, not heard.
In your love, Lord, have mercy on those
who turn to us for freedom, but find only a prison.
Have mercy also on us, for our failure to love,
and give us the grace and compassion
to care for those whose lives are in danger
and who seek asylum in our land.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (Jesuit Refugee Service UK.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

9. Jesus falls the third time

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- All** **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**
- Reading When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5: 1- 12.)
- Poem Each journey entails a hundred possibilities.
I have been thinking of a safe place
When
Feeling my fatherland to this land,
When
Leaving my motherland this land.
But when I reached to this foreign land,
I saw myself in no man's land,
I saw myself living in Alexander Island
In Antarctica.
A place where no one want to live,
But is the place where I live,
My new home.
- (‘Destitute’ by ‘Nas’, JRS-UK Community Blog, 10/10/2013.)
- Prayer Lord, no one is a stranger for you
and no one is never far from your loving care.
In your kindness watch over refugees and exiles,
those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost,
and those who have left or run away from home.
Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers
and to those in need. Amen. (CAFOD.)
- All** **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments

Number 10

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? (James 2: 1-5.)

Testimony No one chooses to be an asylum seeker. Being an asylum seeker is a very difficult way of life. Stress, melancholy, sadness, loneliness, depression and more are the package of asylum daily life. There is not a moment when those feelings don't invade us. We are often very anxious, afraid; we are upset. We wonder what tomorrow will be made of. We do have the right to joy or happiness. We are human beings deprived of our humanity.

(‘Malan’, West African Refugee, via JRS-UK Community Blog, 19/07/2013.)

Prayer God, our fellow traveller,
give us courage to leave security behind
that we may take the path of risk
and become your pilgrims.
Give us courage to tread the road of dispossession
that we may reach out to those we meet
and share their load.
And give us grace to listen to those whose voice is lost
That we may hear their cry and shout out for justice. Amen.
(Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD.)

All **Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross

Parliament Square

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10: 40.)

Poem In a place where I thought that Big Ben is the best sight to see.
In a place where I thought that Buckingham Palace is the best castle to see.
In a place where I saw green because Wimbledon tournament is on grass
and green.
In a place where I thought, women are powerful, because the ruler is a
Queen.
In a place where women can choose regardless of their background, as dear
Princess Diana did.

But London, with Hooliganism, you gave us the impression that you are not
immaculate.
But London, you start your shy revolution with Protestantism.
But London, you gave us the impression that you are the best place to
acquire education.

Although you, London are welcoming, life is hard in you.
Although you, London are very tolerant, racism still exists.
Although you, London are equal, competition is tough – London, you may
have saved some lives but you did not save our soul.

(‘In London’ by Charles, JRS-UK Community Blog, 10/10/2014.)

Prayer Lord, you have commanded us to love one another as you have loved us.
Confronted with all the misery in our world today, we very often feel quite
helpless and confused....
Lord help us to feel the pain of this suffering world. Help us to put ourselves in
the place of each one of our brothers and sisters ; to understand and to show
compassion and love, as their problems are also our problems.
Lord, walk with us as we do not see clearly the way forward. Help us to reach
out to all your people especially the poor, the helpless and the oppressed
victims of injustice.
Lord, bless the world and make it a better place for all of us and may we, at
the end of the day, hear these comforting words : "I was hungry and you gave
me to eat,... I was a stranger and you took me in ; naked and you covered ;
sick and you visited me ; I was in prison and you came to me".
(Mary Hackett, CARJ.)

All **Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

12. Jesus dies on the cross

Methodist Central Hall

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the
afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema
sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
(Mark 15: 33-34.)

Silence

Prayers For the people and land from which refugees have fled,
may there be peace and reconciliation between people and nations.

That strangers, refugees, and those who seek asylum
may find a welcome among us.

We pray for all who make our laws
and administer justice: May the God of justice be their guide.

We pray for those who minister to the vulnerable and broken people
especially the homeless and displaced: that they may show God's welcoming
love.

We often feel powerless in the face of crushing poverty, injustice
and violence in our world; we ask for the courage to reach out
to victims of injustice and poverty.

Lord, you bestow on us the gift of your spirit in our lives to sustain our
wavering hope.

Accept the prayers we make from the fullness of our hearts,
and grant the requests we make with confidence in you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Brentwood Diocese Refugee Week.)

All **Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

13. Jesus is taken down from the cross

Home Office

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. (Hebrews 13: 1-3.)

Testimony “So I was scared for the first time. I was very scared. Until when I got to Yarl’s Wood. So getting inside Yarl’s Wood, the process before you even reach inside Yarl’s Wood, showed me that this place you are going to, I don’t think it will be easy to come out from here because it was very tough to get in. So in that case you always think it will not be very easy to come out. And then I start thinking of what happened, why am I in this prison? Then all that fear and all those thoughts came back to me as anger. I was so angry in detention. The thing is, why I was angry is I always think that I hadn’t committed a crime in this country. Only thing I was asking was for protection. But I ended up seeing myself in prison. People call it Yarl’s Wood detention, it’s not detention, it’s prison. They just want to make the name beautiful from outside but it’s not a detention, it’s a prison.”

(J, Oral evidence to APPG Detention Inquiry, March 2015 p.40.)

Prayer Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it:
- a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
- a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; - a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; - a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Anglican Church.)

All **Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Westminster Abbey

All **We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here, and in all your churches throughout all the world;
and we bless you, because, by your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.**

Reading Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son for the forgiveness of our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4: 7-12.)

Poem Darkness is still in power and the day has not yet come.
Hope is still there but the day has not yet come.
One day I will go to university –the day has not yet come.
One day in my country there will be nice cities that are safe.
The day has not yet come.
When all the wars are erased from memories, the day has not yet come.
When love and peace fill everyone's heart,
the day has not yet come.
I will laugh without fear, without regret.
The day has not yet come.
I will be light as a sunny dress, flying.
The day has not yet come.

('One Day' by Qandagha Faryad, Julie France, Aissata Thiam in 'Big Writing for a Small World', English PEN, 2012.)

Prayer God bless our eyes so that we will recognise injustices.
God bless our ears so that we will hear the cry of the stranger.
God bless our mouths so that we will speak words of welcome to newcomers.
God bless our shoulders so we will be able to bear the weight of struggling for justice. God bless our hands so that we can work together with all people to establish peace.
(National Council of Churches of Australia, from liturgy materials for Refugee Sunday 25 August 2002. 26 August 2002 was the first anniversary of the MV Tampa picking up 433 asylum seekers from their sinking boat.)

All **Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

Resources and sources

All Bible passages are taken from the New Revised Standard Version from <http://www.biblestudytools.com/>

Special thanks to Louise Zanre of JRS-UK's London office for providing resources, including from the JRS-UK Community Blog <http://www.jrsuk.blogspot.co.uk/>

Detention Inquiry <https://detentioninquiry.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/immigration-detention-inquiry-report.pdf>

Unlocking the Doors
http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/re_unlocking_the_doors_0604.pdf

Big Writing for a Small World
<http://www.englishpen.org/event/big-writing-for-a-small-world-2/>

More information

JRS website <http://www.jrsuk.net/>
Citizens UK website <http://www.citizensuk.org/>
LRCN <http://www.londonchurches.org.uk/4.html>

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