



THE CROSS WALK

FOLLOW THIS SCRIPT:

As you drive to Harbourside Park (by the Auto Mall), you can listen to Chris Tomlin's "The Wonderful Cross"
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=DkooFFALTzU&list=RDAMVMDkooFFALTzU>

After parking, walk towards the ocean at the foot of Fell and go to the plaque on the railing. Behind it you will find a hidden container of hand sanitizer on the left and a box of nails on the right. Sanitize your hands and take a nail to carry in your hand as you walk and to take with you this week until Easter Sunday. Stand still for a moment to take in the sights and sounds of your surroundings and silently invite Jesus to walk with you.

FIRST STOP: JESUS BREAKS BREAD WITH HIS FRIENDS

Have a seat on one of the benches and read Luke 22:14-20

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Eat your communion bread and drink the cup, remembering the sacrifice of Jesus, and with an awareness that even now, Jesus eagerly desires to be with you on this walk today.

After you are finished, walk east along the shore, following the path as it curves to the left and then curves to the right between two buildings. Continue to follow the signs for the "Spirit Trail." Right at the entrance to the Mosquito Creek Marina, you will see a few small trees on a grassy spot on your right, and a few logs to sit on. This is your next stop.

SECOND STOP: JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

Have a seat on one of the logs and read Mark 14:32-38.

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

If you like, consider how alone Christ feels in this moment. Seek to be with him in his anguish. Consider the beauty and the cost of Jesus' prayer of surrender.

When you are finished, continue your walk along the Spirit Trail through Mosquito Creek Marina, and stop at the large totem pole.

THIRD STOP: PETER DENIES JESUS

Facing north, look for the spires of St Paul's Indian Church, the oldest Roman Catholic church in the lower mainland, built specifically with mission to the First Nations as its intent.

Read Mark 14:66-72.

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ 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."

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

What comes to mind when you think of what denying Christ looks like in your own life? Remembering that you are walking on unceded territory of the Squamish Nation, also consider the many ways Christians have denied the way of Jesus through their treatment of Indigenous peoples throughout our nation's history.

Continue to walk east along the shore, passing houseboats on the right, the BCIT Marine Campus on the left and then arriving at waterfront park. Continue to walk and then turn right to walk into the gazebo structure.

Since this is an extended stretch of walking, listen to this song as you walk to the next stop:

<https://www.reverbnation.com/miriamjonesredsea/song/745902-i-am-one>

FOURTH STOP: JESUS BEFORE PILATE

As you stand in the gazebo, imagine you are in the court of Pilate, surrounded by a restless, angry crowd.

Read Mark 15:6-15.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Take a moment to think about the injustice of Jesus being condemned to death while Barabbas is released. Consider how the crowd and religious leaders of the day were all complicit in this—including Pilate by his silence. What injustices in the world are you most aware of today? Are there ways we are complicit in these injustices?

After some reflection, turn around and go back the way you came, pausing at the maritime memorial.

FIFTH STOP: JESUS IS HUNG ON THE CROSS

As you stand at this monument in the shape of a sundial, read Luke 23:32-35.

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

Take a moment to read the plaques and the words around the bottom of the sundial, written to remember those who lost their lives while serving with the Royal Canadian Navy during the second World War. Consider the significance of a human life, given up for the sake of others.

When you are finished, make your way back the way you came, passing through the marina. As soon as you leave the marina, immediately turn left and walk on the path towards the ocean, arriving at Bewicke Park.

SIXTH STOP: JESUS DIES

Take a seat on one of the benches and read Mark 15:33-37.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Although this is not the end of the story, this is where it ends for now.

As you sit, see if you can spot the cross in front of you and allow it to stir your imagination as you spend some time thinking about the unfinished places in your own life—what are the places of pain and death in your own life, in our world. Where are you most in need of God's resurrection power? Give thanks to Jesus for his death, and for the hope of resurrection we have because of Him.

Make your way back to where you began. Take special note of the nail you still hold in your hand or in your pocket and as you walk, express gratitude in your heart to Jesus for his deep love for the world, expressed through his death on the cross.

As you walk back, listen to "Indodana" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMuwgozEo4>

[Translated, the lyrics are: "You took your own son who lived amongst us. The Son of God was crucified. Oh Jehovah! Father!"]

If you like, carry your nail around until Easter Sunday as a reminder of the love and sacrifice of Jesus.

As you drive home, listen to "Wood and Nails" by the Porter's Gate.

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=3upn7tafgBO&list=RDAMVM3upn7tafgBO>