

1. DUST

THE FIRST STATION

Remember that you are dust...

READ

A story of creation.

Genesis 1: 4a-7 (Robert Alter translation)

On the day the Lord God made earth and heavens, no shrub of the field being yet on the earth and no plant of the field yet sprouted [...] there was no human to till the soil [...] then the Lord God fashioned the human, humus from the soil, and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living creature.

There is a pun in the Hebrew ...'adam means human, 'adamah means soil or earth, so the Genesis account cleverly says that we are 'adam from 'admah "humans" from "humus," creatures from the earth...or literally earthlings.

RESPOND

Pick up one of the small containers of soil...

Reflect on the substance from which all life comes...

Breathe deeply and reflect on the breath of God, the gift of life that God provides with each breath.

Carefully pour the dirt through your fingers and into the container.

PRAY

Say the Prayer silently or aloud.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 259)

MOVE to the next station—**WATER**.

2. WATER

THE SECOND STATION

Remember that you are beloved...

READ

A story of Jesus' baptism

Luke 3: 21-22 (New Revised Standard)

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Without water there would be no life. We are made of dust and water and breath sustains us. Like the blood in our veins, water is the circulatory system of our planet. Our bodies are about 60% water.

Reflect on all the ways water is used in your life...

Reflect on the ways water shows up in scripture:

- God moved over the waters at creation...
- Moses led the people out of Egypt through water...
- Jesus is baptized in the water...

If you were baptized it was with water...it is one of the ways God says to us, "you are my beloved, with you I am well pleased." Have you ever heard God say this to you?

RESPOND

Take one of the small containers of water and, if you have been baptized, remember your baptism. If you have not been baptized, remember a time when you have seen a baptism. Hear God say, "You are my beloved."

Carefully pour the water through your fingers into the container to represent the cleansing of your sins.

PRAY

Say the Prayer silently or aloud.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, God, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. May we always remember that we are your beloved. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 306)

MOVE to the next station at the back of the sanctuary—OIL

3. OIL

THE THIRD STATION

Remember that you are anointed...

READ

A story of anointing

Luke 3: 21-22 (God's Word, My Voice).

Six days before Passover, Jesus and his disciples were in Bethany, where Lazarus and his sisters lived. (Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, remember?) Martha put on a lovely dinner for them. After supper, Mary brought out some very expensive perfumed oil and massaged Jesus' feet with it. Then she wiped them dry with her hair. The whole house was full of the fragrance. Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples, the one who was going to betray Jesus to the authorities, ruined the moment by saying, "I can't believe you didn't sell this perfume and give money to the poor." [...] Jesus said, "Back off. Leave her alone. She honors me with this beautiful perfume and her care of me. She bought that perfume to prepare me for my burial. You always have the opportunity to help poor people. You won't always have me here with you in the flesh."

Anointing with oil is an ancient practice. Kings and queens, priests and other rulers are anointed and marked as special Rulers are anointed on their heads. Mary anoints Jesus' feet to indicate the kind of ruler He is...not one who rules over people but one who serves people. In many cultures, soon after death the body is anointed with oil and perfume. Jesus says this oil is also to be used for His body after He dies.

Remember that nothing, not even our own death, can take away the love of God, and the sign that we are loved.

RESPOND

Take one of the cotton swabs and dip it into the oil and trace a cross on the back of your hand or your forehead. Remember that you are anointed.

PRAY

Say the Prayer silently or aloud.

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in us the covenant you made with us at our baptism. Send us forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 309).

Move to the next station—LIGHT

4. ASHES

THE FOURTH STATION

Remember that you are mortal...

READ

Genesis 3:19

*By the sweat of your brow
Shall you get bread to eat,
Until you return to the ground –
For from it you were taken.
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.*

The ashes we use today are made from the dried palms left from last year's Palm Sunday celebration. The ashes are a reminder of our mortality; that we are made from dust and we will one day die and return to dust. They remind us that all things pass away...death is a natural part of life...everything returns to the earth.

RESPOND

Put a cotton swab in the ashes, and place ashes on the forehead or the back of the hand of yourself or someone with you saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

PRAY

Say the Prayer silently or aloud.

*O God who gave us life,
And in whose arms we die,
You know us as we are,
Understand what we have been,
And see what we shall become.
We give you back our lives
That you may make them new:
Generous, committed to hope,
And fearless to do your will;
That your whole creation
May live to praise your name
Now and for ever. Amen.*

(All Desires Known, Janet Morley, p. 140)

Move to the next station—LIGHT

5. LIGHT

THE FIFTH STATION

Remember that you are light...

READ

Two stories of light

John 1:1-5 (NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NRSV)

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Christ is the light of the world. On Christmas Eve and during Lent and Easter we light a special candle called the Christ candle. It represents the light of Christ. You have that light inside of you. You let Christ's light shine when you follow Jesus. When we light a candle it can remind of us God's light. It can remind us that Jesus is close. It can also remind us of the people we love but don't see any more...those who have died. Candles can remind us that everything that lives dies, but the light still shines.

RESPOND

Light a candle and remember that Christ, the Light of the world, is always present.

PRAY

Say the Prayer silently or aloud.

Giver of life and love: Be present at this hour as we pause to rest in Your love. Fill us with the memory of Your goodness, bless us with the grace of Your light, and send us out again with renewed faithfulness to show Your love to the world. Amen.

(Daily Prayer for All Seasons, p. 28)

Move to the final station at the Communion table—**CROSS**

6. CROSS

The Sixth Station

Remember that life is full of joy and difficulties, and God is with you...

In Lent, sometimes people give up things because they feel these things are keeping them from growing closer to God...Sometimes people take on something new, if they feel that a new practice would draw them closer to God. If you were to give yourself permission to do one thing that would draw you closer to God in these 40 days, what would it be? Make that your Lenten practice.

Throughout Lent, we will be contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea glass to be specific. Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken, is now considered a transformed and precious piece. This is the journey we undertake. Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy. No matter what, Jesus *is* the lover of our souls.

READ

Matthew 11: 28-30

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."

RESPOND

Take a piece of the glass from the container. Keep it with you in worship and listen in worship each week for your "assignment" as we learn how Jesus can reshape us through any kind of difficulty.

A BLESSING

*Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.
Begin the journey of recovering your depth of love for all
and your joy of living in this world.*

*May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
"I will give you rest."*

*And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul
and a spring in your step.*

As you depart, you may wish to sit a while longer in the sanctuary for more prayer and reflection. When you depart, please take this guide with you. Go in peace.

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