

INTRODUCTION

Christ speaks These fourteen steps
that you are now about to walk
you do not take alone.

I walk with you.

Though you are you,
and I am I,
yet we are truly one—
one Christ.

And therefore
my way of the cross
two thousand years ago
and your “way” now
are also one.

But note this difference.
My life was incomplete until I crowned it
by my death.
Your fourteen steps
will only be complete
when you have crowned them
by your life.



Station One

JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Christ speaks In Pilate's hands, my other self,
I see my Father's will.
Though Pilate is unjust,
he has earthly power over me.

And so the Son of God obeys.

If I can bow to my Father's will,
can you also submit, even in the face of injustice?

I reply My Jesus, Lord,
obedience cost you your life.
For me
it costs an act of will—
no more—
and yet how hard it is for me to bend.

Remove the blinders from my eyes
that I may see that it is you alone whom I obey.

Lord, it is you.



JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS

Christ speaks This cross,
this chunk of tree,
is what my Father chose for me.

The crosses you must bear
are largely products of your daily life.
And yet my Father chose them, too,
for you.

Receive them from his hands.

Take heart, my other self,
I will not let your burdens grow
one ounce too heavy for your strength.

I reply My Jesus, Lord,
I take my daily cross.
I welcome the monotony
that often marks my day,
discomforts of all kinds,
the summer's heat, the winter's cold,
my disappointments, tensions, setbacks, cares.

Remind me often that
in carrying my cross,
I carry yours with you.
And though I bear a sliver only
of your cross,
You carry all of mine, except a sliver,
in return.