

Redemption

april 2-4

Vernon Advent Christian Church



Dear Participants,

Welcome! We are so glad you decided to join us on this Journey to Redemption!

- Your **Map** will guide you around Vernon to view twelve visual displays of the Journey to Redemption.
- Your Guidebook/Audio will flesh out the story.
- Your **Experience Bag** contains tokens to take action at different parts of the story.

Here are a few instructions to help you enjoy your experience fully:

- Please drive with caution. Pull over and use hazard lights if stopping at a display.
- Be courteous to through traffic.
- Please remain in your car at displays 2 through 11.
- Both stops 12 at the Advent Christian Church and at Mountainview SDA Church have displays and communion to partake in. Feel free to visit either stop of your choice.
- Below is information for listening to an audio version of this guidebook.

We hope that you enjoy this Journey to Redemption!



Audio Guides and Directions avaliable: mvsdachurch.com/redemption or Scan QR Code



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1 The Beginning

John 1:1-4 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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

1 John 4:16 And We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in Him.

Reflect: "God is Love" is written on every page of the creation account. Imagine what a perfect and unblemished world might be like.

Think: Imagine a world in which every human interaction is free from conflict, innuendo, and pain. Relationships would have perfect understanding. People would understand God's heart toward them, experience relationships with one another in utter freedom, and interact with the earth in a way that shows love and regard for its Maker.

Act: In your bag there is a piece of clay. As you form it in your hand, consider the creator forming the world. Take a moment to notice the good in nature and in people that can still be seen through the veil of sin.

The Knowledge of Good and Evil

John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Reflect: In an effort to shift the loyalty of Adam and Eve, Satan did his work. Satan lied and was successful in his deceit. He exulted in the deliberate theft of human innocence. Adam and Eve forfeited eternal life when they believed Satan's claims and forgot God's specific warning. The weight of the world was now known to them, a burden that God had planned to shield them from. It was too heavy for humanity to carry and created a separation between God and man.

Think: Everything was broken. Humanity was now unable to experience God face-to-face. How do you see brokenness in the world? In your life situations? In your own heart?

Act: Find the stone in your bag. Feel its weight. Carry it with you as an emblem of your mistakes. It is a representation of your sin, the weight of the world.



Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

John 3:16,17 For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

Reflect: There was only One who could pay the price of that fateful decision made by Adam and Eve: Jesus Christ, the Righteous. The promise of the Messiah's coming echoed down through the ages. Prophecies were given. Stories were told. Traditions and ideas were established. Again, Satan was at work to twist the promise and pervert it to create confusion. Satan was working to portray God as vindictive, arbitrary and cruel. Satan was lying, but Jesus would come to restore truth to humanity and shine God's light on man.

Think: Does Satan whisper lies in your ears? Does he cast doubt about whether Jesus will keep His promises to you? Does he cloud your understanding of God's intent toward you, even today?

Act: Read John 3:17 again. Pray that God will give you a restored vision of who He is as evidenced in Jesus Christ. The prayer sticker in your bag is a reminder that God hears your prayers.

Jesus Comes to Earth

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 2:46, 47, 52 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at his understanding and answers... And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 3:21, 22 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from Heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Reflect: Jesus came to the earth at exactly the right time. It wasn't obvious except to those who were looking for Him. Many missed it altogether or misunderstood His mission. As Jesus studied scripture in His youth, learned the prophecies and heard of the promise given to Adam and Eve, He knew who He was, and God confirmed this for Him at His baptism.

Think: Can you remember a time God confirmed something for you? A time you were convicted and convinced of His presence in your life?

Act: Share with those in your vehicle the evidence of God's care for you. Take some time at home to record blessings or experiences that remind you that God cares for you in the small journal provided in your bag.

John 1:51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Mark 14:18, 19 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?"

Mark 14: 32-36 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch." He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

Reflect: Though the literal weight of the world was on His shoulders, Jesus showed His disciples how to love and minister to others after He was gone. Judas was welcome at the Passover table, even though Jesus knew what was coming. Can you sense His struggle and imagine His anguish? During this time of intense pressure, Jesus chose to submit His desires to those of God the Father. He deliberately gave His future and the outcome to God.

Think: What would it be like to choose to submit your desires, future, and the outcome of your life to God?

Act: When you have a chance, kneel and read Luke 22:39-46. Commit your will to God like Jesus did.

Betrayed, Denied, Condemned

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time, he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Matthew 26:69-75 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little while later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:11-26 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who

is called Christ?" For he knew they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with this just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more saying, "let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather the tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and our children." Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

Reflect: Judas betrayed Christ for financial gain, Pilate for political gain, and Peter for social acceptance. Betrayal has many faces.

Think: Remember a time you betrayed Jesus with words, actions, or non-action. In what ways do we take the easy road, even if it means participating in injustice?

Act: First, find the hand sanitizer in your bag. Apply it to your hands. Think of areas where you have caved like Pilate rather than insisting on what is right. Next hold the nickel in your hand. How much is integrity worth? Is there an area where you may be trading values for money or influence?

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Matthew 27:26-31 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then, they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Luke 23:33,34 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Reflect: Even though Pilate saw through the purposes of Jewish leadership, even though something about Jesus gave him pause, even though Pilate believed Jesus to be innocent, the pressure of the crowd overwhelmed him, and he gave Jesus up to be beaten and killed. Jesus did not leave Pilate ignorant, He gave him a chance to know Him and His mission. He said everyone who is seeking truth will hear His voice. Pilate tried to dodge responsibility by sending Him to Herod. Herod wanted a spectacle, but Jesus was silent. Herod had heard the greatest prophet, John the Baptist, and had not only rejected his invitation to life but also killed him.

Even though he beat and mocked Jesus, pressuring Him to save Himself, Herod passed Jesus back to Pilate. Unwilling to act on his conviction, Pilate wavered and said he would beat him and let him go. It was not enough for the crowd, who condemned Him to die and traded a murderer for the Son of God. They beat Him and made fun of Him. They stripped Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, dressed Him in a scarlet robe and played cruelly with Him, jesting and striking Him. Then they put His clothes back on Him, took Him to the place of the skull and crucified Him.

Think: The King of Heaven, the Son of God. He wasn't just killed. He was mocked, shamed, humiliated, and spit on. Jesus taught forgiveness. He taught love. He made bold proclamations about loving one's enemies and blessing those who curse you. Jesus goes beyond the imaginable when He asks His Father to forgive the ones who had just driven nails through His hands and feet and hung Him to die. In your life— who are the "soldiers with hammers and nails" that you could extend forgiveness to?

Act: Find the nail in your bag. Hold it in your hands and ask God to help you see the difficult people in your life with a different lens. Find the red yarn and think how Jesus' stripes have healed you.

The Least of These

Luke 23:39-43 An inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise."

John 19:26,27 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

Reflect: No words are adequate to describe what Jesus suffered for us. As we contemplate this record we can be encouraged. At His death, the tender Savior does not retaliate. He doesn't defend himself. Instead, He continues to reach out and care for humanity until He draws His last breath. Instead of fighting the injustice against Him, He saw the "invisible people." He reassured a thief and made provision for His mother. This is what nobility looks like. Jesus Christ, the Righteous.

Think: It takes a different level of bravery and faith to trust God so completely. Who are the "invisible people" in your world?

Act: Ask God to show you those who might need to be seen or have provision made for them.

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.

Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Reflect: In this final act of obedience to His Father, Jesus fully revealed Satan and his principles. He secured eternity for all who accept His gift. The prevailing power of God's government manifested in the life and death of Jesus Christ is love and truth. Jesus is the door that no one can shut. He made a way where there was no way.

Think: Do you believe that Jesus lived and died for you?

Act: Open the little gift bag. Read the message and accept this amazing gift to you!

John 19:38-41 After this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So, he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So, there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' preparation day, for the tomb was nearby.

Reflect: Jesus' friends lovingly cared for His body. Imagine their deep emotion as they laid Him in the tomb. How did they reconcile the death of the Messiah? Their entire belief structure was shattered. Interestingly, just as Jesus rested after the work of creation was complete, He rested when the work of redemption was finished. During that Sabbath in history, God gave Jesus an amazing gift: freedom from the tumult of the great controversy. During those sacred hours, Jesus slept.

Think: How do you care for and honor your friends when they do not meet your expectations? Are there ways you can show honor and trust in God when life does not make sense?

Act: Listen to and sing the Cares Chorus by Kelly Willard. (Search YouTube for "Cares Chorus by Kelly Willard")

John 16:19-22 He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see me; and again, a little while, and you will see Me?' Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

Luke 24:1-12 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Reflect: Jesus' friends had unique grieving styles. The women wished

to honor Jesus by caring for his body. His disciples were confused and afraid. Likewise, they responded to the news of His resurrection differently. Some believed immediately. Others needed to see for themselves.

Think: Can you imagine being the angel who got to share the amazing news that Jesus was risen? What is your response when truth is revealed to you from an unlikely source? Do you write it off as gossip or investigate further like Peter?

Act: Take your stone again. Hold it as you think about these early followers of Jesus. Feel the exuberance of their joy as they discover the truth of the empty tomb! Maybe shout "Hallelujah!"



1 Corinthians 11:24, 25 That the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Acts 1:11 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

John 6:40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Reflect: The division started with a question. Is God who He says He is? Jesus answers that question with an invitation: "Taste and see that the Lord is Good." He invites His disciples to the table and tells them, "This bread is my body. This cup is my blood. It is poured out for you. You are welcome here. You belong. You matter. You are forgiven. My grace is for you. I keep my promises. I will give you rest. I will carry your load."

Think: The rock you have held during this journey is a representa-

tion of the burden Satan handed to humanity. Let it symbolize all that you wish you were not.

Act: Take your stone and carry it with you into the church sanctuary. Place it at the foot of the cross. It is our prayer that you will experience the freedom that Jesus offers.

If you do not wish to exit your vehicle, leave your stone at the church in the designated spot.

Communion

Communion is defined as "an act of sharing." The night before Jesus was arrested and crucified, He sat down with His closest disciples and shared a meal with them. During this meal, he used symbols to share with them what was about to happen.

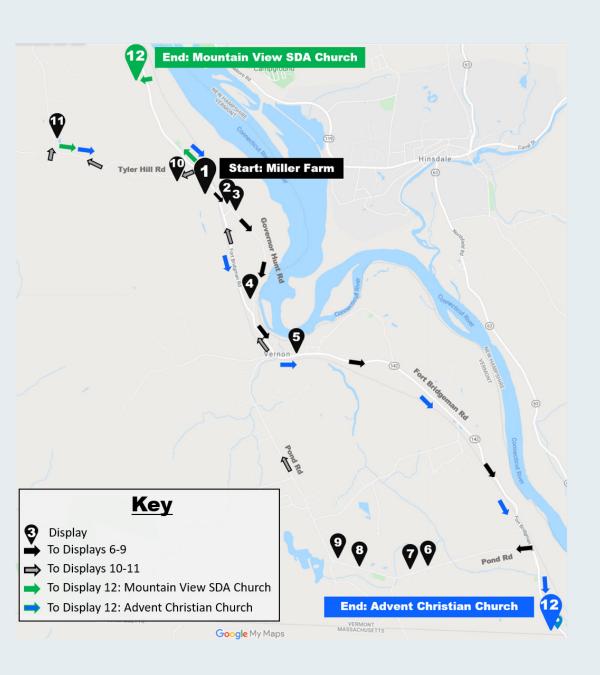
"The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:23-24) When we eat the bread at communion, we are still reminded that Jesus gave his body to be broken for us.

"In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:25) When we drink the grape juice, we remember that Jesus offers forgiveness to us for free, paid for with His own blood.

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Cor. 11:26) With communion, we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us and rejoice that, because of His death and resurrection, we are forgiven. In the spirit of communion, we want to share this experience with you. We offer this bread and grape juice as a reminder of what Jesus did for you and an invitation to get to know Him more.

Map Legend

Stop 1:	The Beginning 1732 Fort Bridgman Road
Stop 2:	The Knowledge of Good and Evil 628 Governor Hunt Road
Stop 3:	The Promise 546 Governor Hunt Road
Stop 4:	Jesus Comes to Earth 17 Governor Hunt Road
Stop 5:	Called to Follow 2531 Fort Bridgman Road
Stop 6:	Betrayed, Denied, Condemned 1519 Pond Road
Stop 7:	Beaten, Mocked, Nailed to a Cross 20 Country Lane
Stop 8:	The Least of These 1207 Pond Road
Stop 9:	Finished 2 Plain Road
Stop 10:	Buried 79 Tyler Hill Road
Stop 11:	Weight and Wait 52 Franklin Road
Stop 12:	The Object Lesson Mountain View SDA Church 1002 Fort Bridgman Road Adventist Christian Church 4554 Fort Bridgman Road







CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



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