



All who wish to participate in the procession may follow the cross. All are encouraged to take turns carrying it. We “pray with our feet” as we process to sites that connect Jesus’ passion with the world around us. Our walk will take us around Morristown Green as we stop at each corner for a reading and time of reflection. This year, we pay special attention to those who are impacted by the horrors of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). How does this impact us as people of faith? What is our responsibility? We ask ourselves some hard questions as we walk the last moments of Jesus’ life, through Morristown. When we return to Redeemer you will be invited to write what is in your heart on cards and nail them to the large wooden cross. The cross will remain through Saturday, as the Church awaits the hope of Easter. After those assembled have had a chance to express themselves, we depart in silence. For those who are unable to participate in the walk, you are invited to join the prayer service on Zoom for a virtual walk.

Stop **A** is at the corner of Speedwell and Water St. Looking North on Speedwell, is **I**, the Willmar Laundromat and just this side of it is **II**, St. Margaret’s Roman Catholic Church. Just down Water Street, is **III**, the Table of Hope on Spring St. Stop **B** is at the corner of Speedwell and S. Park Pl. Looking east down Morris St., you will come to **IV**, Morristown Town Hall and 2.5 miles further on is **V**, the Hyatt Hotel. Cutting across the Green, we will come to Stop **C** at the center of the Green and Station **VI**. Proceeding to the corner of Washington St. and Bank St., you will come to Stop **D**. Looking NW on Washington toward Atno St, we come to **VII**, Zufall Clinic. Just down Atno, you will come to Early St. and **VIII**, Morristown High School. Returning to Stop **E**, 36 South St., we stand in front of the Church of the Redeemer. If we were to continue to Pine St., and turn left we would come to **IX**, Morristown Tire, the site of the original Redeemer and where day laborers traditionally gather to find work.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE STREETS OF MORRISTOWN



Early Sunday morning, January 11th in Morrystown, residents were shaken awake — not by the usual hum of Speedwell Avenue, but by the sight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents executing a federal enforcement operation near the corner of Speedwell Avenue and Henry Street. In the raid, officials said, up to 10 people were taken into custody, including a Morrystown High School senior who had been doing his laundry. 17-year-old Juan Mendoza, a senior at Morrystown High School, was injured as he was taken into custody.

Mendoza is from Honduras and came to the United States alone a few years ago. His family said he had an upcoming hearing to seek special immigrant juvenile status. DHS confirmed in a statement that Mendoza was among those detained, writing, "He illegally entered the U.S. in 2024 and was RELEASED into this country by the Biden administration. He is an adult."

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God of borderless love, open our ears to hear the cries of your children who, seeking security, safety, and a new home, are too often separated, rounded up in raids, led to detention centers, and deported. Give us courage to resist and the strength to stand with and for your inclusive love. May we embrace them and welcome them into our common home, just as John did Mary. This is the work that Jesus calls us to. This is the Way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

II



A pastor in Morristown, New Jersey, says community members are too afraid to go outside after recent ICE activity. He said 11 men were detained by ICE agents outside a laundromat and a nearby restaurant Sunday, just blocks away from St. Margaret Church. Young Juan Mendoza was a High School student taken. "He came here every week for parish Masses," he said. "It's telling you something that he has kindness in his heart. It's very hard to bring our kids today to the church."

On Saturday, a Department of Homeland Security official confirmed to CBS News New York that 11 people were arrested "during routine immigration enforcement actions," saying in a statement, in part, "Several of those with felony offenses. Others took advantage of the Biden administration's open border crisis."

Rev. Duberney Villamizar said hundreds of people in the community are suffering after the raid. "They have children, they have mothers, they have fathers, and they have an extended family," he said.

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God of the voiceless, those we lift up tonight are often silenced by conditions outside of their control. As we prepare once more to celebrate Jesus's resurrection and the re-creating power of Jesus's Way of Love, may we be strengthened to continue building a new world in the shell of the old and may we recognize the face of Jesus in those around us. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.



The Table of Hope just down Water St. to Spring Street provides free meals and groceries and so much more. They envision a community where no individual is left behind, and every family has the scaffolding to thrive. “Our vision extends beyond the immediacy of hunger relief; we are dedicated to constructing pathways to economic stability, educational excellence, and holistic well-being. As we look to the future, Table of Hope aspires to be the cornerstone of a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community where opportunities flourish for all.” With the ICE activity in the area and rising economic challenges for many in the community, the demand is significantly growing for their services. Funding for school lunch programs and food banks have been cut even as grocery prices rise making it harder and harder for people to feed their families.

Presider Let us pray. (Silence)

Holy One, you filled the world with your love, breathing into each of us and these places the breath of life. You named each of us and claimed each of us as your own. Some of your beloved children have been hurt, in their bodies and deep in their souls. We pray for their healing this day, O God. Give us the words and actions we need to comfort those who struggle, and the commitment we need to work tirelessly for the wholeness of all your people and places. We ask this for your tender mercies’ sake. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

IV



A crowd of hundreds gathered under falling snow outside Morrystown Town Hall to protest ramped-up immigration enforcement – including a recent raid in town that swept up a 17-year-old high school student – that has left families on edge. Local residents, students, activists and lawmakers spoke at the Jan. 17 rally of fear that had gripped their community, but also of defiance as they vowed to resist what they said was an attack on people’s democratic rights.

Senator Cory Booker was one of many who took notice reflecting on how “Out of control” immigration enforcement is as it creates a crisis in New Jersey. ICE agents detained multiple people during a raid in Morrystown over the weekend. The raid, which sparked local protests, tore “at the fabric of one of our great New Jersey communities.”

“This creates conditions that are very, very dangerous,” Booker said. “We still have a crisis in our communities of what ICE is doing.”

“After the terrifying ICE raid that occurred in Morrystown, I can’t forget the feeling of fear that hung in the air when I talked with my fellow students,” said Sanjna Vel, president of the student body government at Morrystown High School. “I’m 17 years old and I’m appalled. I’m disheartened by how race has been weaponized to separate families with unprecedented violence. We’re profiling based on appearance.”

Presider Let us pray. (*Silence*)

God of wisdom, guide us through these unjust times. Grant us the insight to see what is right and the courage to stand firm in your truth. Help us resist the forces of evil and injustice. Help us to speak with boldness and clarity, proclaiming your justice and love even when it is difficult. Give us the patience to endure and the strength to persevere. May Your peace, which transcends all understanding, fill us and sustain us. Guide our actions with discernment and our words with grace. Help us to be a beacon of your light in these dark times.

Amen.

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

V



On Sunday, Jan. 11, residents saw a little girl walking by herself outside an apartment building, looking very distressed. According to her mother, the child (Annabella) was waiting at home while her father stepped out to pick up some food. Sadly, he never made it back.

Her father's name is Adonay Mancía Rodríguez, and he was detained by ICE agents near his home. "The operation was routine enforcement", the Department of Homeland Security says. After some time, Annabella realized her father wasn't returning, so she went outside crying and calling out for him. At this time, her mother, Gabby Rosa, was at work at a nearby Walmart. She got a call from her neighbor, who told her what they had seen. Rosa stated that the neighbor said her little daughter was crying and repeatedly asking, "Where's Papi?"

Two days after his abduction, protestors gathered at the Hyatt in Morristown where the ICE agents are staying in protest.

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

In the face of injustice, we come to you. Our hearts are heavy, and our spirit is troubled. Grant us the strength to persevere. Help us to see your light in this darkness. Guide our steps with your wisdom. Fill our souls with your peace. Let your love be our anchor.

When we are weary, lift us up. When we are angry, calm our hearts. When we feel hopeless, remind us of your promises. Stand by us, God, in these trying times. Give us the courage to fight for what is right. Let your justice roll like a mighty river. Transform our anger into purpose. Hold our hands through this storm, we pray.

Amen.

Holy God,

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Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

VI



The Patriots' Farewell Fountain, located in the center of Morristown Green, was installed to honor the New Jersey Militia and the families who supported them during the American Revolution. The monument depicts a militia member saying farewell to his wife, young child, and loyal dog as he prepares to join the Continental Army. The scene reflects the human cost of the Revolution — the separation, uncertainty, and sacrifice carried not only by those who served, but also by the families who stood behind them. A plaque at the base reads: "A monument to the New Jersey Militia and families whose sacrifices created a strong and enduring nation."

These words sound hollow when the reality is that our nation started an unauthorized, unprovoked war. It was declared by this administration for unknown reasons. To date, 13 US Service Members have given their lives. Best estimates place the death toll in Iran at 3000+ including 175 Iranian girls killed when a US bomb destroyed their school. There is no clear exit plan, no help coming from anywhere and no rational solution.

The cost is estimated to be roughly \$59.39 million per day. This is money that could have been used to provide food, health care and shelter to countless Americans.

Presider Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Merciful God, we pray for soldiers who serve during times of war. Protect them and guide them through difficult circumstances. Bring comfort and reassurance to their families who wait anxiously at home. May Your peace surround them and may they one day return safely to their loved ones. God our Mother, we lift up children who grow up in places affected by war. Protect their innocence and guard their hearts from fear. God our Father, our greatest hope is for lasting peace across the earth. We pray that future generations may live in a world where conflicts are resolved through understanding rather than violence. Let love guide humanity's decisions and may your peace reign over every nation. God of wisdom, we pray for leaders across the world who hold great responsibility during times of conflict. Give them clarity of mind, humility of heart, and the courage to pursue peaceful solutions. Help them choose dialogue instead of violence and cooperation instead of division. May their decisions lead to lasting peace for future generations. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

VII



The Zufall Health Center is a nonprofit community health center providing affordable, high-quality, and evidence-based health care across the full lifespan, regardless of income, insurance, or other barriers.

They are led by a team who are committed to more equitable health care access and to helping their patients live longer, healthier lives. Their pledge is to treat everyone with dignity and compassion.

With this administration's cuts to the Affordable Care Act and failure to provide any alternatives, the need for such services has grown exponentially. Additionally, the added burden of RFK's mandates regarding vaccines, care for pregnant women, and denial of care for members of the trans community creates another layer of unneeded bureaucracy. The "Big Beautiful Bill" is expected to cut federal health spending by about \$1 trillion over a decade in ways that will jeopardize the physical and financial health of tens of millions of Americans. Additional research suggests approximately 300 rural hospitals will close because of the loss of funding.

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who gave grace to your servants to bear your healing love into the shadow of death: Grant to all who heal the same virtues of patience, mercy, and steadfast love, that your saving health may be revealed to all; through Jesus our Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

VIII



Although the senior student detained by ICE in the January 11th raid was not mentioned by name at Monday's Morris School District board meeting, Supt. Anne Mucci acknowledged the "fear, confusion and distress" felt by some students and families since the ICE raid. A parent presented a petition with more than 300 signatures urging the district to take emergency steps to safeguard students. Nicole diMella said she and other parents were "deeply concerned" about the ICE operations and the possibility of more enforcement activity.

She urged the regional district to explain what "services, protocols and safeguards" are in place — or will be implemented — to keep schools safe and supportive, and called for enhanced transportation, additional busing, more security, preparedness training for staff and students, and expanded social and emotional supports.

Mucci said the "care, safety and well-being of our students" is a top priority. "Our focus as a district is to keep our schools calm, welcoming and centered on instruction, while ensuring students who are struggling emotionally, are supported. Counselors, social workers and administrators are available, and we ask staff and families to continue referring students in distress to the appropriate supports available in our schools," she said.

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God, grant wisdom and patience to all teachers and staff. Help them keep our schools a safe and nurturing environment for all. Guard all children from harm, watch over their journeys to and from school, and keep all classrooms safe. Help our schools to be places of unity and peace. Teach us to accept one another and learn from our diverse experiences and backgrounds. Holy One, you filled the world with your love, breathing into each of us and these places the breath of life. You named each of us and claimed each of us as your own. Some of your beloved children have been hurt, in their bodies and deep in their souls. We pray for their healing this day, O God. Give us the words and actions we need to comfort those who struggle, and the commitment we need to work tirelessly for the wholeness of all your people and places. We ask this for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

IX



Just down Pine Street at the corner of Morris Street, the site of the original Redeemer, is a place where day laborers traditionally gather to find work. The recent ICE raids have created marked anxiety among them as they fear being picked up despite the need to find work to feed and support their families. As the economy tightens and prices rise, so, too, does their fear.

Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty stated police and town officials have not been made aware of any ICE operations before they take place, nor do they participate in any raids. "Morristown is a community built by generations of immigrants, and our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Actions like this create fear and uncertainty," Dougherty said. "Morristown stands with you and will continue to advocate for dignity, fairness, and respect for all who call this community home."

Dougherty issued a plea for immigration attorneys willing to work pro bono to help those who were taken into custody. He also urged calm while he sorts out next steps with community leaders.

Presider Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God of peace, we pray for peace amidst the storms of war. Calm the raging conflicts and bring tranquility to the hearts of those who suffer. We pray for the hearts of oppressors in war-torn regions to change. Soften their hearts and lead them to paths of righteousness and peace. May they be transformed by Your love and grace. In Your infinite mercy, grant wisdom to leaders, comfort to the suffering, and healing to the wounded. Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, reign in these lands. They who defend creation do not violate love's law. This is the work that Jesus calls us to. This is the Way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you:
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
Let us pray. (Silence)

Jesus our Brother,
Comfort us with your powerful mercy,
And give us strength to reach out in love,
Even to those the world deems unlovable.

Jesus our Savior,
Remind us that we do not live or die for ourselves alone.
Rather, we live and die with you.
That is why you came among us, why you died, and why you live again.

Jesus, Child of God,
Remind us that we are all children of God.
Give us courage and imagination to
Welcome the unimaginable event that awaits us all.
And at the end, give us peace.

Amen.

When you are ready, please depart in silence...

You are invited to nail your prayers and petitions to the cross as you leave.