

## Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church

### GOOD FRIDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP – April 10, 2020



You are invited to find a quiet place where you can read, reflect, sing and pray - alone or with your family members. As you prepare a place, remember that others of our church family are doing the same. May God meet us each in our place and may the worship you and I offer this morning be pleasing in God's sight and strengthening to our hearts and souls.

Begin by keeping a visual image of the **cross** before you – if you have a cross (*any cross – a necklace, a wall plaque, a needlepoint picture, a wooden ornament, one made of lego or blocks, a photo or picture from a book, a computer image – or even this printed Order of Worship wherein for each section I have included pictures*) – I just ask that you keep the CROSS in view.

#### **Gathering Words:**

All you who pass this way

**Look and see, the shadow of sin**

All you who pass this way

**Look and see the weight of the world**

All you who pass this way

**Look and see, the suffering of our Saviour.**

All you who pass this way

**Look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ**

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

HYMN: #231 *'When I survey the wondrous cross'*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_fvFfPqjO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_fvFfPqjO4)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.



SERMON: 'Living in the Shadows'

Scripture Reading: James 1:17

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

This the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



A shadow can be a scary thing – especially when as children we first encountered that strange shape following us. But then we were taught how to have fun - we would try to chase it or step on it.

Then someone taught us to make animals with our hands casting the shadow. Shadows though can still be scary. Shadows are



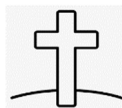
not real but they point us to what is real and true.

Today's Good Friday service is about shadows – the shadow of the cross that looms large on this day or on any day when we pause to consider how significant the cross is in our faith.

Good Friday worship at our church has almost always been a very visible and often tactile service – we see and touch and experience as well as listen, meditate and weep. This Good Friday, as with the past few weeks of worship services, comes to you in written form for your consideration but today I also include many pictures – hoping and praying that the pictures (*which would have been projected*) will enhance your worship.

It is appropriate that we think about shadows today. Good Friday is a day of darkness, sadness, and of gloom. If ever there was a day of shadows in Christian history – it is this day which we call 'good'. We'll get to what makes it good later. But we begin by remembering it was a day when all light – all hope – seemed to be extinguished. The candle of Christ – the light set on a hill – was gone. The disciples were left – confused – bewildered – with feelings of defeat.

A shadow had come across the landscape of the teaching, the miracles, the interactions of Jesus with the disciples, and with the crowds who were following him. The shadow was of a looming crisis. More and more Jesus and his followers were being challenged. The cross was the instrument of capital punishment used upon those who were usurpers of the Roman authority. It was known as a most cruel and tortuous and humiliating form of death. Therefore, the image of a cross already cast a fearful shadow upon any who would dare oppose the rule of Rome. Jesus and his followers represented, spoke of, demonstrated a different kingdom – a kingdom of grace, mercy, love, peace – a kingdom where the poor would be blessed, the meek would inherit the earth, the pure in heart would see God, and those



persecuted for righteousness would inherit the kingdom of God. Such teaching greatly disturbed the religious and political authorities. The shadow of a cross was cast. But a shadow can only be cast when there has first been light – and Jesus had come into the world as Light. John 8:12 "*I* am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life." Jesus, from his birth, through his life and ministry was LIGHT and continues to be LIGHT to us and to the world that continues to love darkness, because the world prefers its evil deeds. Jesus, and especially the cross of Jesus continues to cast a shadow in the world – a shadow that reminds us that the cruelty that took our Saviour to the cross challenges us even today to seek forgiveness, to know that there has never been such amazing love where One would give his life for the salvation of all who would look to the cross, to be comforted in our experiences of living that even in our own rebellion or disbelief; or grief and loss – we can see not just the shadow of the One who hung and bled and died upon a wooden cross but the LIGHT behind the shadow and worship and celebrate **Jesus Christ**.

Solo: 'Alone' (sung by Judy Page)

<https://youtu.be/SrTMPwwMnC4>

*It was alone the Saviour prayed  
In dark Gethsemane;  
Alone He drained the bitter cup  
And suffered there for me.  
Alone, alone,  
He bore it all alone;  
He gave Himself to save His own,  
He suffered, bled and died alone, alone.*

*It was alone the Saviour stood  
In Pilate's judgment hall;  
Alone the crown of thorns He wore,  
Forsaken thus by all.*

*Alone upon the cross He hung  
That others He might save;  
Forsaken then by God and man.  
Alone, His life He gave.*

*Can you reject such matchless love?  
Can you His claim disown?  
Come, give your all in gratitude,  
Nor leave Him thus alone*

## THE SHADOWS TEACH & COMFORT

A picture is worth a thousand words. I insert a number of pictures – take a moment to consider each image.

**Think about the cross – about the shadows – as each one is presented.**



### Shadow of Fulfillment

Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Reflection:

I came across this picture, no artist was identified. It is an imaginary scene. The toddler is Jesus playing in Joseph's workshop while his father is busy. There is light streaming through the window – a revealing light, shining on the small boy and creating a

shadow in the form of a cross. And what is the boy playing with – nails – three horrible dangerous looking nails – one for each hand and one for his feet? And in the background Joseph is pounding with his hammer. Is the artist trying to say that it is his sin that will drive the nails into his own son's hands? Does Joseph, hammer in hand, represent all of us who are responsible for Jesus' death on the cross? The one thing for sure which the shadow reveals, is that Jesus was born to die and by so doing to save us from our sin. Think about it.



### Shadow of Condemnation

*Reading: Luke 23:32-34*

<sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Think about it. (*Silence- 30 seconds*)

**Prayer:**

Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

*HYMN: #774 'Freely, freely'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFV00VeKdlw>

**God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.  
I've been born again in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share his love as he told me to.**

***He said 'Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.***

**All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name  
In earth and heav'n in Jesus name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share his pow'r as he told me to.**

***He said 'Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.***

**God gives us life in Jesus' name  
He lives in us in Jesus' name  
and in Jesus name I come to you  
to share His peace as He told me to.**

***He said 'Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.***



## Shadow of Separation

*Reading: Luke 23:35-43*

<sup>5</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the

Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Think about it. (*Silence- 30 seconds*)

### Prayer:

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief, you welcomed him to God’s side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

Hymn: #202 *‘We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet’*

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/860> (using tune for ‘Blest be the tie that binds’ –

this piano or guitar link will help, click on play/ you’ll need to go back and press stop)

We lay our broken world  
In sorrow at your feet,  
Haunted by hunger, war and fear,  
Oppressed by power and hate.

Where human life seems less  
That profit, might and pride,  
Though to unite us all in you  
You lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken towns,  
Our neighbours hurt and bruised;  
You show us how old pain and wounds  
For new life can be used.

We bring our broken hopes  
For lives of dignity;  
Workless and overworked you love  
And call us to be free.

We bring our broken loves,  
Friends parted, families torn;  
Then in your life and death we see  
That love must be reborn.

We bring our broken selves,  
Confused and closed and tired;  
Then through your gift of healing grace  
New purpose is inspired.

O Spirit, on us breathe,  
With life and strength anew;  
Find in us love, and hope and trust,  
And lift us up to you.



### **Shadow of Sorrow**

*Reading: John 19:25-27*

<sup>25</sup> but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman,

behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Think about it. (*Silence- 30 seconds*)



**Prayer:**

Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

Special Song: *'Jesus, Remember Me'* music by Taizé (you are invited to listen to this slow reflective song and remember...)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGB2E0NzO2A>

*Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come in to your kingdom.*

**Shadow of Despair**

*Reading: Mark 5:33-34*

<sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Think about it. (*Silence- 30 seconds*)

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God’s presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God.

**Hymn: #193** *'Out of my bondage, sorrow and night'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpRUD-EUWA>

Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night,  
Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!  
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!  
Out of my sickness into Thy health,  
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!

2

Out of my shameful failure and loss,  
    Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!  
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!  
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,  
Out of life's storm and into Thy calm,  
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!

3

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,  
    Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!  
Into Thy blessed will to abide,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!  
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,  
Out of despair into raptures above,  
Upward for aye on wings like a dove,  
    Jesus, I come to Thee!

4

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,

Jesus, I come! Jesus, I come!

Into the joy and light of thy home

Jesus, I come to Thee!

Out of the depths of ruin untold,

Into the flock Thy love doth enfold,

Ever Thy glorious face to behold,

Jesus, I come to Thee!



### **Shadow of Suffering**

*Reading: John 19:28-30*

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Think about it. (*Silence- 30 seconds*)

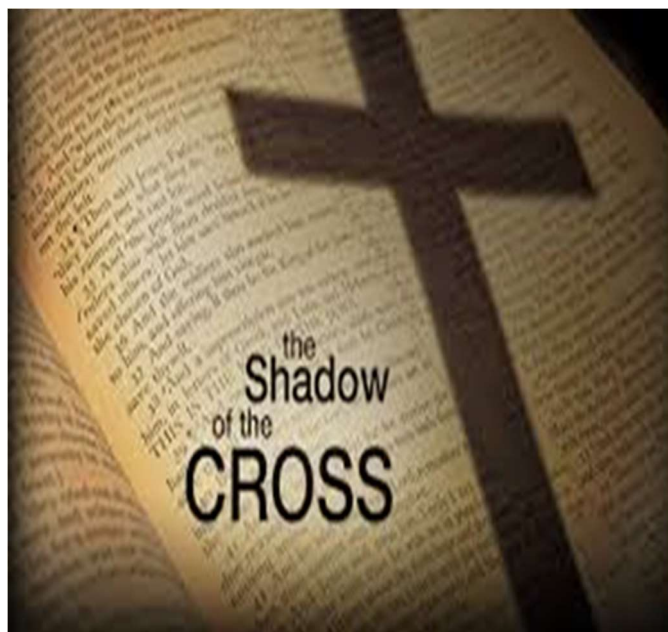
### **Prayer:**

Suffering Saviour, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering. And we thank you Lord Jesus for thinking of us, dying for us, and living in us and through us so the world would come to know YOU.

*Liturgical dance to the worship song 'Above All' (Kendalynn Diemert)*

*(Kendalynn is Bev Wood's granddaughter)*

Click on this link; <https://youtu.be/j1f7IJG K2A>



## Shadow of Death

Reading: [Luke 23:44-49](#)

<sup>44</sup>It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup>while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>Now when the centurion saw what had taken

place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" <sup>48</sup>And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

*The cross has cast its shadow- but the shadow serves to direct us to the real thing. The cross of Jesus was real – the punishment it inflicted was real – the suffering and pain beyond imaging – the loss of blood enormous – the mental, emotional and spiritual agony overwhelming – the shame of being numbered with the transgressors - and all of it real, so very real. Real enough to cause the Centurion, who would have seen many others die on a cross, but he noticed something different – the reality that this dying one was innocent. Jesus, the Son of God, the Light of the World, the One in whom there was no sin – He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. And He died that Friday to accomplish just that. This is the day we now call GOOD. It is good we revisit and remember. It is good that we worship this day. It is good for us to know and experience this reality. The shadow of the cross is still cast over us – and as we come under the shadow, we are aware of its reality – and in that reality we can know the depth of God's love – for you, for me! This is what makes this day good.*

**Prayer:**

Dearest Jesus, even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

Think about it. *(Silence- 30 seconds)*

*In this silence, consider the cross. Focus on the cross which you have placed on your table or before you for this time of worship – or turn your eyes to the cross which hangs in the sanctuary of our church (I've included this picture to remind you)*



*Does the cross, for you, truly mean the love of Jesus? Is this a truth you cherish? Is this a confirmation of your true commitment to live in this life as Jesus would and to be ready to enter eternal life to be with Him forever?*

Closing Hymn: 'The Old Rugged Cross'

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/618> (music – click piano or guitar, please sing)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown*

2 Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown*

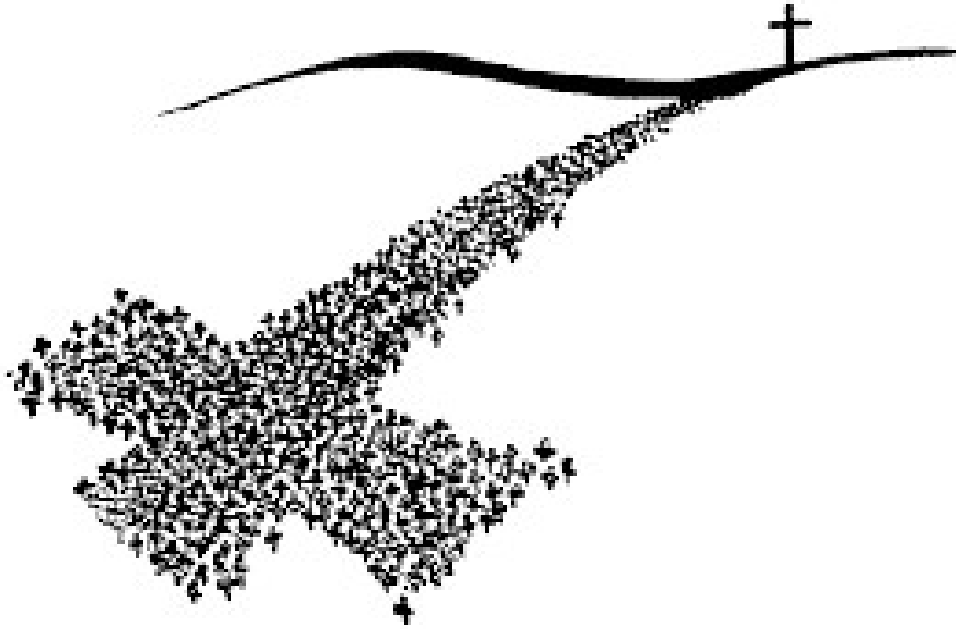
3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown*

4. To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
And they'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where His glory forever I'll share

*So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown*

As we close off this time of worship, please pray for each other, that we would be at peace! Amen.



PRAYER VIGIL is set up at the church and begins at 12 Noon. Those who have signed up for an hour of prayer can come to the church and have a private time in the sanctuary. I will be in my office all afternoon if you need to touch base about anything.