**St.Andrews United Church**

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# **April 9, 2023**

**Good Friday**

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**A Service of Shadow and Stones**

**(Inspired by Young Clergy Women International)**

At the beginning of the service, each person will receive a stone and be encouraged to use this stone by holding it in their hand, placing their worries on it, feeling its weight. At the end of the service, as we leave in silence, leave your stone behind leaving your worries; letting go of the weight; marking an encounter with God; and honouring Jesus in his time spent in the grave until Easter morning.

Prelude

**Gathering Words**

One: All you who pass this way  
Many: Look and see, the shadow of sin  
One: All you who pass this way  
Many: Look and see the weight of the world  
One: All you who pass this way  
Many: Look and see, the suffering of our Savior.  
One: All you who pass this way  
Many: Look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ  
One: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Hymn - What Wondrous Love is This - 147 VU

**Shadow of Condemnation**

*Reading:* [*Luke 23:32-34*](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72806993)

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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus - 135 VU

**Shadow of Separation**

*Reading:* [*Luke 23:35-43*](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807012)

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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - 142 VU

**Shadow of Sorrow**

*Reading:* [*John 19:25-27*](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807054)

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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - 149 VU - Verses 1&2

**Shadow of Despair**

*Reading:* [*Mark 5:33-34*](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807076)

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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - 149 VU - Verses 3&4

**Shadow of Suffering**

*Reading:* [*John 19:28-30*](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807104)

Prayer:  
Suffering Savior,  
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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: Were You There - 144 VU - Vs. 1&2

**Shadow of Death**

Reading: [Luke 23:44-49](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807131)

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.

*(Silence)*

Hymn: Were You There - 144 VU vs. 3-5

Prayers for the People

This Good Friday we join our voices

to the words of Jesus on the cross,

and the cry of all who are abandoned,

“My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Before we race in quickly

with the triumphant answer,

or the desire to set things right,

we need to stand alongside

this ancient cry of dereliction.

So today we place ourselves

with all those who cry out

for food and justice, for work and healing,

for hope and love, for faith and for meaning:

we hear their pain and the pain of Jesus Christ.

And because we know

that in two days we will be back

celebrating and singing,

do not let us deny the suffering

of Christ and of this world.

O God, our God, we cry out to You

do not forsake us. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus, Remember Me - 148 VU (3x’s)

*We leave in silence, leaving our stones and our burdens at the foot of the cross.*