

Good Friday

April 3, 2026



**St. John's United Church** of The United Church of Canada

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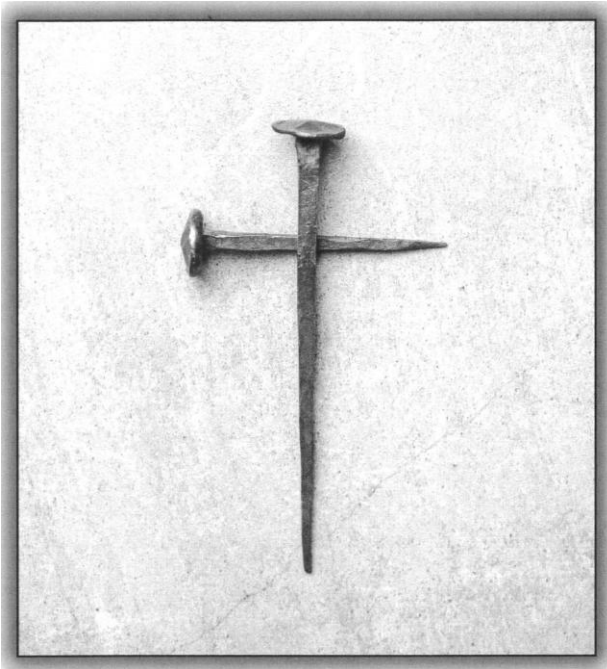
[www.stjohnsmoncton.ca](http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca)

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Office Hours: M-F, 9am–1pm

**A warm welcome is extended to all.**



## SERVICE OF SHADOWS

*This morning's offering can be left in the offering box by the Sanctuary main entrances as you exit. It is gratefully received.*

# CALL TO WORSHIP

The  
people  
stood  
yelling,  
**“Crucify!”**

and it breaks our hearts every time.  
For Jesus’ death occurs every time someone  
is ignored, mistreated, oppressed.

**“Crucify!”**  
tears  
away  
at  
God’s  
Beloved.

## FIRST OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:1-2, Jesus is Arrested

## HYMN 142 VU **JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS**

(NEAR THE CROSS) (Words: Fanny J. Crosby / Music: William Howard Doane)

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,  
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary’s mountain.

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *R*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. *R*

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *R*

## SECOND OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:13-18; 25-27, Peter denies Jesus

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Ever Present God,**

**we are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death, reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him.**

**At the foot of his cross, he called his mother and his beloved disciple into a new community.**

**Give us the grace and courage to join them there, welcoming all who struggle and grieve into this new covenant of love and grace. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it.

Know that God meets you in the story, with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

## THIRD OF THE SHADOWS

John 18:28-38, Trial of Jesus before Pilate

## HYMN 143 VU

### *MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN*

(LOVE UNKNOWN) (Words: Samuel Crossman / Music: John Ireland)

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

O who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die!

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,  
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

## **FOURTH OF THE SHADOWS**

John 18:38-19:16a, Jesus is Condemned to Death

### **HYMN 152 VU      *THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY***

(HORSLEY) (Words: Cecil Frances Alexander / Music: William Horsley)

There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there.

There is no other good enough to pay the price of sin;  
his death has opened wide the gate of heaven, to let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,  
and trust in his redeeming blood and try his works to do.

## **FIFTH OF THE SHADOWS**

John 19:16b-27,

From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community

## **PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

## **SIXTH OF THE SHADOWS**

John 19:28-30, Jesus Dies

*(Three loud knocks come from the back of the sanctuary  
to represent the death of Jesus)*

## **SERMON**

### **ANTHEM**

*HUMBLE CROSS*

(Words: John Parker / Music: Joel Raney)

### **HYMN 144 VU**

***WERE YOU THERE?***

(WERE YOU THERE) (Words / Music: African-American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*Jesus is dead...it is finished.*

## **SEVENTH OF THE SHADOWS**

John 19:38-42, Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

### **HYMN 135 VU**

### **BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS**

(ST CHRISTOPHER) (Words: Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane / Music: Frederick Charles Maker)

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:  
the shadow of a mighty rock, within a weary land,  
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontime heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, my eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
and from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess,  
the wonder of his glorious love, and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

# PRAYERFUL RECESS

*There is no benediction this day.  
Jesus is laid in the tomb, and now his followers leave him to God,  
in the silence and rest of Sabbath. Our service and watch  
continues into the night and to the empty tomb.  
You are invited to leave in silence.*

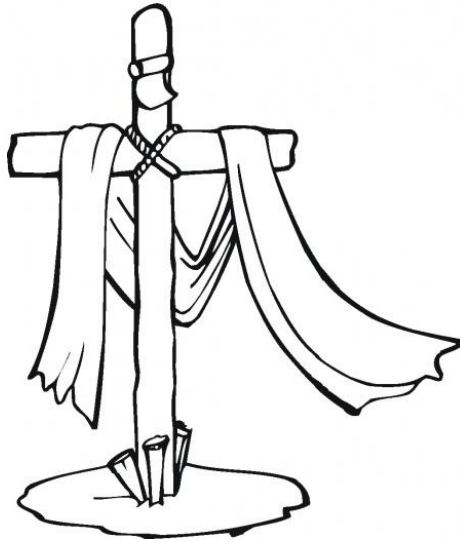
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## A Note on Holy Week and Anti-Semitism

The Passion texts can pose problems for Christian-Jewish relations. For centuries, many Christians blamed “The Jews” for Christ’s death. This interpretation is incorrect, misguided, and dangerous. In fact, crucifixion was solely a Roman form of punishment, one used to frighten subjugated peoples into obeying Roman authority. Tragically, Christians have misused the reading of the Passion to foment violent anti-Semitic pogroms.

Anti-Semitism still plagues the world.

We read these texts with sensitivity and caution,  
remembering the cruelties and failures of our past.



Greeters

*South Door – Alma St*  
Rebecca Davis

*North Door – Victoria St.*  
Lynda Leclerc

## CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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Good  
Friday

