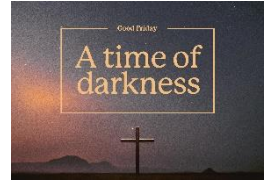




# 'Worship at home' Good Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



You are invited to find **seven candles** for this time of worship. **Light each of the candles** to remind you that Christ brings light to our times of suffering and darkness. **After you have read each Scripture passage, extinguish one of the candles.**



The events of Holy Week lead us into a time of shadows and darkness. However, we know from our experiences of life that new growth comes from the dark earth, and light shines brightly when the darkness is greatest. Without darkness, we cannot appreciate the light.

## **The Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:20-25**

*When it was evening, Jesus and the twelve disciples sat down to eat. During the meal Jesus said, "I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples were very upset and began to ask him, one after the other, "Surely, Lord, you don't mean me?" Jesus answered, "One who dips his bread in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man*

*will die as the Scriptures say he will, but how terrible for that man who will betray the Son of Man! It would have been better for that man if he had never been born!" Judas, the traitor, spoke up. "Surely, Teacher, you don't mean me?" he asked. Jesus answered, "So you say."*

*Good News Bible*

**When have you felt you have let someone down, or betrayed their trust? When have you felt you let God down? When have felt you let yourself down?**

**Extinguish one candle, and know God's abundant love and generous grace, releasing you from the shadow of betrayal.**

## **The Shadow of Anguish: Matthew 26: 36-39**

*Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost*

*crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went a little farther on, threw himself face downward on the ground, and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want." Good News Bible*

**When have you felt the shadow of anguish and sorrow?**

**Extinguish one candle, and find courage in Christ who comforts us in our darkest times.**

## **The Shadow of False Accusations: Matthew 26:59-66**

*The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some false evidence against Jesus to put him to death; but they could not find any, even though many people came forward and told lies about him. Finally two men stepped up and said, "This man said, "I am able to tear down God's Temple and three days later build it back up.' " The High Priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Have you no answer to give to this accusation against you?" But Jesus kept quiet. Again the High Priest spoke to him, "In the name of*

*the living God I now put you under oath: tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus answered him, "So you say. But I tell all of you: from this time on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of heaven!" At this the High Priest tore his clothes and said, "Blasphemy! We don't need any more witnesses! You have just heard his blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered, "He is guilty and must die." Good News Bible*

**When have you misled another, spoken an untruth, or remained silent in order to save yourself?**

**Extinguish one candle, and ask God's forgiveness for times you may have contributed to another's downfall, even unintentionally.**

**The Shadow of Ridicule and Judgement: Matthew 27:28-31,** *They stripped off his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. Then they made a crown out of thorny branches and placed it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand; then they knelt before him and made fun of him. "Long live the King of the Jews!" they said. They spat on him, and took the stick and hit him over the head. When they had finished making fun of him, they took the robe off and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.* *Good News Bible*

**When have you made fun of another, or judged them for their choices or priorities?**

**Extinguish one candle, and commit to a new start in your relationships with others.**



**The Shadow of Injustice: Luke 23:39-43**

*One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what*

*we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."*

*Good News Bible*

**When have you been aware of injustice, and not acted to address it?**

**Extinguish one candle, and pray for those  
who suffer betrayal, ridicule or injustice.**

**The Shadow of Abandonment: Mark 15:33–34**

*At noon the whole country  
was covered with darkness,  
which lasted for three hours.  
At three o'clock Jesus cried  
out with a loud shout, ["Eloi,*

*Eloi, lema sabachthani?"]  
which means, "My God, my  
God, why did you abandon  
me?"* *Good News Bible*

**When have you felt alone and abandoned?**

**Extinguish one candle, and know that God is with you,  
even when you do not feel God's presence.**

**The Shadow of Death: Luke 23:44-46**

*It was about twelve o'clock  
when the sun stopped shining  
and darkness covered the  
whole country until three  
o'clock; and the curtain  
hanging in the Temple was*

*torn in two. Jesus cried out in  
a loud voice, "Father! In your  
hands I place my spirit!" He  
said this and died.*

*Good News Bible*

**Extinguish the final candle.  
Allow yourself to be confronted  
by the shadows of suffering,  
darkness, and death in our  
world. Pray for people and  
situations where there is  
destruction and devastation  
in our world.**



*Today we walk with Christ in the dark shadow of the cross,  
knowing we have weighed him down,  
our burdens crushed his shoulders,  
His suffering is for us, for us he endured death.  
Let us trust in God alone and move forward with courage  
as we walk the way of the cross together,  
knowing that God never abandons us or leaves us without hope.  
Christ, the light of the world, is with us.*