

**Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Corner of George & Brookland St., Sydney, NS**



**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

**Friday, April 7th 2023 11:00 a.m.**

Leading Worship

Brad Gillespie

David Sneddon

Music Director Peter MacDonald

## **Good Friday Service**

Call to worship:

*We pray together...* God of sorrows, as we walk this path of sorrow today, comfort us in our despair. Strengthen us and give us courage for the journey, for we know there will be times when we stumble and fall. In faith and hope, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Rock of Ages (240)

1<sup>st</sup> reading: The Last Supper – Matt 26: 17-30

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (231)

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Jesus prays in Gethsemane... Matt 26: 36-44

Hymn: O Sacred Head (239)

3<sup>rd</sup> reading: Jesus' betrayal & arrest – Mark 14: 43-52

Choir: Anthem "He Was Wounded". Gordon Young.

4<sup>th</sup> reading: Jesus' trial before the Jewish High Council

Mark 14: 53-65

Hymn: Were You There..(233)

5<sup>th</sup> reading: Jesus' trial before Pilate... Luke 23: 1-5

Choir: Anthem – "Calvary". Mary Kay Beall & John Carter.

6<sup>th</sup> reading: Jesus is sentenced to death- Luke 23: 13-25

7<sup>th</sup> reading: The Crucifixion - John 19: 17-24

Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus (238)

8<sup>th</sup> reading: the Death of Jesus- John 19: 28-30; 41-42

We have omitted a benediction on this Good Friday service, allowing us to exit in silence and experience the emptiness of Holy Saturday...

God meets us in the shadow of the cross. We are there even now. May the shadow of Christ's love shelter us in the days ahead, as we await his joyous resurrection on Easter morn.

(We exit solemnly to appropriate organ music)

*Thanks to the participants in this service...*

*Choir & Choir Leader, Peter MacDonald.*

*Readers... Bradley Gillespie, Kevin Joel Arun Daniel, Annie Rebecca Abhi Arun Daniel, Dennis MacIntyre, Catherine Sneddon, David Sneddon.*

OBITUARY:

Someone has penned an obituary that could have appeared in the Jerusalem Post, on a certain Saturday in the year 33 A.D. The obituary reads like this:

Jesus Christ, age 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, "the place of the skull." Betrayed by the apostle Judas, he was crucified by order of ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were asphyxiation by crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent [at least three years] of his adult life working as a teacher. Jesus occasionally worked as a medical doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Until the time of his death, he was sharing the Good News by healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for recounting parables about his Father's Kingdom, performing miracles, such as feeding more than five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man born blind. The day before his death, he held a last supper celebrating the Passover feast at which he foretold his death. The body was buried in a grave donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a family friend. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb and Roman soldiers were stationed on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

No such obituary appeared in the Jerusalem Post the day after Christ died, of course. Christ died a rather obscure death. But think what an impact his death had. Two thousand years later we are still telling the story. And to think it was all on our behalf.