**New Vision Community Church and St. Andrews United Church**



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***Good Friday April 18 2025***

**Invitation to Worship**

**Hymn:** **VU 147 “What wondrous love is this**

**Prayer of Approach** (*together*)

**God of all our days, we gather on this day of sadness and triumph, our hearts breaking and broken by the wonder of it all. And you are with us. In our waiting and our weeping, keep us willing to enter fully into the mystery and pain of this day, for by your kindness, we will find our way through it. Amen**.

**The New Creed**

**Introit:** **VU 144 “Were you there” (verses 1 and 3)**

**Scripture:** John 18:28–32, 38*b*—19:16a

**Reading -** On the cross, Jesus spoke words that send a shudder through us, words of total abandonment and hopelessness. Was it really that God had abandoned him? Or was he beginning to recite the words of Psalm 22, which starts off with that horrible feeling that many of us have had at some, or many, points in our lives. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**Responsive** **Reading:** Psalm 22 Part One - with sung refrain - 744 VU

**Anthem**

**The Quietness of Prayer**

In the quietness of prayer,
we come, O God, with hearts still and heavy,
shadows deep and full of sorrow.
Today, the world holds its breath—
beneath a darkened sky,
beneath a broken cross,
beneath the weight of love poured out.

In the quietness, we remember
the One who knelt in a garden,
who bore our burdens without defence,
who walked the road of suffering,
not with resistance, but with grace.

In the quietness, we listen
for the last words spoken in pain,
for the silence that followed,
for the hope that still dares to live
in the absence of light.

Cradle us now, O Christ,
in the stillness of this holy moment.
Let our tears be prayers,
our silence be reverence,
our hearts be open to the mystery
of love that dies,
so that life may rise.

We wait in the quietness,
with trembling faith and tender hope.
Amen.

**Hymn:** **VU 144 “Were you there” (verse 2)**

**Scripture:** John 19:16b–25*a*.

**Hymn: O Sacred Head - 145 VU**

**Reading**

A public crucifixion was occasion for people to come and stare and watch and be horrified. The Romans took the opportunity to make examples out of those who were tortured as a deterrent to others. We might imagine that the scene was sometimes noisy, and the air filled with taunts, and at other times, quiet. There were some remarkably tender things that happened as well. Listen to John’s words:

**Scripture:** John 19:25*b*–27

**Sung Response:** (Psalm 22 - just the refrain)

**Scripture:** John 19:28–30

**Hymn - They Crucified My Lord - 141 VU**

**A Prayer for Holy Week**

God of passionate and vulnerable love,

Whose body, broken on the cross rebukes us still,

Save us, hold us and forgive us,

That you as victor and victim might lead us from death to life,

Through Jesus, the Crucified. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 149 “When I survey the wondrous cross”**

**Scripture:** John 19:31–42

**Hymn: (*seated*) VU 586 “We shall go out with hope**”

**Invitation to come to the Cross**

If you wish, I invite you to come to the foot of the cross for such a moment as this, that your heart might be opened and widened by what you experience here. There is no rush—come as you wish, stay as long as you want, kneel, stand, sit—do whatever is best for you

or spend as much time as you want where you are in silent prayer.