



Service of Shadows

Lake Joondalup Baptist Church

Welcome

The following words are scriptures chosen to remind us of the shadows that Jesus experienced on the way to the cross.

As you read, contemplate what sacrifice was given, what emotions were experienced, all to show you how much your Father in Heaven loves you as His own. That we have a God who knows what suffering is and that His deepest desire is to have a relationship with us, His children.



Traditionally, 7 candles are lit, one extinguished after each reading.

You may wish to light a candle as you read these scriptures.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Still my thoughts and quiet my mind,
I come empty handed, that I may receive.
Lead me in the stillness to focus on You,
To contemplate all that was given for me.

*The
Shadow of
Betrayal*



The Shadow of Betrayal

Matt 26:14-16

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

The Shadow of Betrayal

John 14:28-31

²⁸ ‘You heard me say, “I am going away and I am coming back to you.” If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

³⁰ I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, ³¹ but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. ‘Come now; let us leave.



*The Shadow
of Personal
Agony*



The Shadow of Personal Agony

Luke 22:40-44

⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you will not fall into temptation.' ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.' ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.



*The
Shadow of
Loneliness*



The Shadow of Loneliness

Matt 26:40-44

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. 'Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?' he asked Peter. ⁴¹ 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.



*The
Shadow of
Desertion*



The Shadow of Desertion

Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.' ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, 'Do what you came for, friend.'

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, 'Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.



*The
Shadow of
Injustice*



The Shadow of Injustice

Matthew 26:57-66

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, “This fellow said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.””

The Shadow of Injustice

Matthew 26:57-66

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, 'Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?' ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, 'I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.'

⁶⁴ 'You have said so,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?'

'He is worthy of death,' they answered.



*The
Shadow of
Pain*



The Shadow of Pain

Mark:15:15-20

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



*The
Shadow of
Death*



The Shadow of Death

Matt 23:35-37

³⁷ “Jesus spoke saying, ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”



Concluding thoughts

Traditionally at this point in the service we are left in the silence and darkness to exit in our own time, to continue in contemplation.

However today many of us, and those we love, are already in a place of silence and darkness; so this service will conclude differently, with a few thoughts and prayers.

God's Grace

After reading words that reflect the enormity of the sacrifice that Jesus went through, our thoughts can often lead us to say “I don't deserve this”, but rather than holding on to the knowledge that this underserved gift is the action of a loving God, it is all too easy to slide into feeling guilty that Jesus had to make such a sacrifice.

God did not send His Son to the world to have you feel guilty, rather He sent His Son into the world to remove your guilt and shame, to make a way for you to be in relationship with Him. **It was God's choice to do it this way.** Your choice is to accept the gift and receive His LOVE.

Our prayer is that you would respond to these scriptures with grace filled gratitude and joy, not sin flooded guilt, knowing that God chose this way to show His love for you, to redeem you and call you His Child.

God Sees and God Knows

When you feel lonely or deserted by those you trust, when you experience pain or are surrounded with injustice, there is a peace in knowing Jesus knows exactly how you feel.

God knows how you are feeling on any given day, not just because He sees all that goes on in your life, but because He knows what it feels like. God himself, through His Son Jesus, has experienced every human emotion, and so can relate in deep understanding to how you are feeling today.

Our prayer is that you would find rest and peace as you bring your heart to a God who not only sees you, but knows you, who wants to help carry your burdens and envelop you in His Love.

Closing Prayer

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, through the experience of your faith, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises. Amen