

# He Knew the Wood of Earth

A Lenten Poem of Salvation History Through a Metaphor, by Rick McKinney, 2017

A tree of life in a garden lush, a tree of knowledge too; forbidden bites and death requires.

He knew the wood of earth.

Cypress wood to make an ark, a shelter from the flood; forty days and forty nights.

He knew the wood of earth.

Acacia wood to make a chest for a tabernacle carefully set, manna in the wilderness.

He knew the wood of earth.

Cedar wood for a temple grand, Jerusalem its home; burnt offerings and sacrifice.

He knew the wood of earth.

Under every green tree, on every high hill, pagan altars built; a chosen people had betrayed.

He knew the wood of earth.

A shoot shall come from Jesse's stump, a branch from its roots, there to wait for the promised one.

He knew the wood of earth.

A wooden manger for a little bed, a carpenter's shop for a home; fragrances from every tree.

He knew the wood of earth.

A fisher's boat used to teach, in a sycamore a friend is found, vine for wine, figs for food.

He knew the wood of earth.

Palm branches with shouts of praise, hosannas to the king; money tables overturned.

He knew the wood of earth.

On a wooden table, a supper spread, a final meal is served, a new covenant in new wine.

He knew the wood of earth.

An olive grove in which to pray as disciples fall away, soldiers with their torches lit.

He knew the wood of earth.

A fire of wood in a courtyard cold warms a best friend who three times bold denies whom he knows.

He knew the wood of earth.

A wooden post for a whipping fierce, a crown of thorns to pierce, and a staff with striking blows.

He knew the wood of earth.

A wooden beam upon his back, already raw and red, he carried forth and stumbled on.

He knew the wood of earth.

Stretched upon a wooden cross, they nailed his hands and feet, then raised it high for all to see.

He knew the wood of earth.

From that cross he spoke of peace, to his enemies even, and to his mother a new son given.

He knew the wood of earth.

He died upon that wooden cross, so to set us free, for from that tree of death, comes the tree of life for all who die in Christ.

He knew, the wood, of earth.