

*The Morning Service
of the Iona Community
From the Iona Abbey Worship Book
25 June 2023; 8:00 AM*

Opening Responses

Leader: The World belongs to God
All **the earth and all its people.**

How good it is, how wonderful
to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together;
justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,
the sea, sky, and land would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

All: **Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, You know our innermost thoughts even before they break through into consciousness; You teach us how to pray. Breathe your breath into our hearts and minds this morning. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts may turn to you and our hearts bow down in grateful praise of God—Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Canticle G: A Song of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from among all nations; *
and gather you from all lands to bring you home.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you; *
and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.
A new heart I will give you *
and a new spirit put within you.
I will take the stone heart from your chest *
and give you a heart of flesh.
I will help you walk in my laws *
and cherish my commandments and do them.
You shall be my people, *
and I will be your God.

Leader: Trust in God's forgiveness,
**let us in silence confess our failings
and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.**

Silence

Leader: Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

ALL: **May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Leader: Amen.

ALL: **Before God,
with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ taught us, we now pray:

**All: Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love Maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
The Way of your Justice be followed by the people of the world!
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace & Freedom sustain our hope & come on earth!**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever, Amen.**

Response of Faith

Leader: With the whole church
ALL: **we affirm
that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere
**we affirm
God's goodness at the heart of humanity
planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation
**we celebrate
the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God
for ever at work in ourselves and the world.**

READINGS

**Proper 7 (12) - June 25, 2023 - Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 -
Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 - Romans 6:1b-11 - Matthew
10:24-39**

Leader: **Listen now in the reading of scripture for the world and wisdom of
God.**

Genesis:

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

**8 The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that
Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had
borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out**

this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your off“spring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

SILENCE

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17

**“1 Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.**

**2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.”**

**3 You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.**

**4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

**5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.**

**6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.**

**7 In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.**

**8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.**

**9 All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.**

**10 For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.”**

**16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.**

**17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

SILENCE

Romans 6:1b-11

“WHAT then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he

died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

SILENCE

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus said, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!”

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

**For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;”
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.**

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

SILENCE

DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
ALL: **thanks be to God.**

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Move among us, God; give us life;
All: **let your people rejoice in you.**

Give us again the joy of your help;
with your spirit of freedom sustain us.

God make our hearts clean,
restore us in body, mind, and spirit.

Let us pray.

Leader: God, in your mercy,
ALL: **hear our prayer.**

Prayers from the Bidding Book are read.

Leader: Walk with all these today, O God,
and keep us on your way.

Leader: Ever-present God, set your blessing on us
as we begin this day together.
Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live;
confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn.

ALL: **We ask not for what we want
but for what you know we need,
as we offer this day and ourselves
for you and to you.
Amen.**

Leader: In the name of the Trinity of Love,
God in community, holy and one. Amen!