

Conflict – the space between

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 5pm Sunday 24th April 2022

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: 🎵 **God welcomes all, strangers and friends.
God's love is strong and it never ends. (x3)**

INTRODUCTION There will be spaces - times of quiet in this service. There will also be time for the sharing of stories and prayers about the conflict we experience within and without.

OPENING RESPONSES:

Leader: We gather here in your presence, God,
ALL: **in our need, and bringing the needs of the world.**
Leader: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,
ALL: **and you know by experience what human life is like.**
Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;
ALL: **we come with our faith and with our fears.**
Leader: We come as we are, because you have invited us to come;
ALL: **and you have promised never to turn us away.**

MEDITATION: *(What were you arguing about along the way? Edited by Pat Bennett p7)*

Where there is separation, there is pain.
And where there is pain, there is story.
And where there is story, there is understanding, and misunderstanding,
listening, and not listening.
May we turn toward each other, and turn toward our stories,
with understanding, and listening, with argument and acceptance,
with challenge, change and consolation.
Because if God is to be found,
God will be found, in the space between. Amen

SONG: 🎵 *(Known Unknown 70 – tune Rockingham 'When I surveyed')*

- 1. The hope that hides in Bethlehem – a promise hidden in the past,
a seed an ancient sower cast – is meant for every us and them.**
- 2. No silent night at Bethlehem, as reunited friends crowd out
the pain of birth, the mother's shout, which heralds heaven's priceless gem.**
- 3. No safe repose at Bethlehem: in earthly danger he is laid
at whose command the world was made, he who is root and flower and stem.**
- 4. The house of bread at Bethlehem, the birthing place of heavenly food,
of Jesus born in flesh and blood, with angels claiming God is good.**

BIBLE READING: Luke 24 v13-36

Reader: Listen now for the word of God.

Now that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed

these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. ³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Reader: For the word of God in scripture,

ALL: for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, thanks be to God.

TIME OF QUIET

PRAYER: (*What were you arguing about along the way? Edited by Pat Bennett p272*)

Three-in-one God, you call us into relationship, but you never told us how hard it could be.

Guide us to be connectors in our fractured communities.

Provide us with the words to tell our stories and the patience to listen to the stories of others.

Prepare the way for bridges to be built, as we graft together.

Help us to let the little things go, as we focus on loving, forgiving, inviting and accepting.

Walk with us, Lord Jesus. **Amen**

A TIME FOR SHARING STORIES OF CONFLICT

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

Leader: We bring to God

someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

ALL (♫ *chant*): **Oh Lord hear our prayer, oh Lord hear our prayer, when we call, answer us.**

Oh Lord hear our prayer, oh Lord hear our prayer, come and listen to us.

Leader: We bring to God

someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer.

ALL (♫ *chant*):

Leader: We bring to God

a troubled situation in our world tonight.

ALL (♫ *chant*):

Leader: We bring to God, silently
someone whom we find it hard to forgive or trust.

ALL (🎵chant):

Leader: We bring ourselves to God
that we might grow in generosity of spirit, freedom of thought and warmth of heart. Amen

ALL (🎵chant):

TIME OF QUIET

SONG: 🎵 (Known Unknown 42 tune 'All people that on Earth do dwell')

- 1. Jesus was doubted when he said, that he would rise up from the dead,
until, released from mortal pain, he rose to live and love again.**

- 2. God's Spirit moves across the earth, bringing potential to its birth,
Revealing truth, disarming lies, enabling buried hope to rise.**

- 3. We are not here to stay the same, to leave this world as when we came.
Some things must die, some systems fail, the powerless thrive, the powerful quail.**

- 4. 'All things must change and be made new' – if this is strange it first is true.
God wills a new heaven to appear, among the ashes of life here.**

CLOSING RESPONSES:

Leader: Surprising Son of God, you revealed the truth to women,

ALL: **who were not believed by men.**

Leader: You are in the voices of the unbelieved

ALL: **and the ignored.**

Leader: So, bring us towards each other.

ALL: **Bring us towards the truest truth.**

Leader: Because here, if anywhere,

ALL: **we will find you. Amen**

BLESSING:

ALL: **May the peace of God –
the demanding peace of emotional engagement
the dangerous peace of imaginative action
the dynamic peace of Holy Dreaming –
fill our hearts with joy, our lives with courage,
and our world with change. Amen**

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© What were you arguing about along the way? Edited by Pat Bennett

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The next Iona service will be at 5pm on Sunday 22th May in Pershore Abbey