

Iona Evening Prayers, May 2022 – Ascension - Saying ‘Goodbye’

Welcome and Introduction

Song: **God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God’s love is strong and it never ends. X 3**

Opening Responses:

Leader: We gather in your presence, God
All: **in our need and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,
And you know by experience what human life is like

We come with our faith and with our doubts;
We come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because you have invited us,
And you have promised never to turn us away.

Song: CG 66

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| <p>1. Jesus calls us here to meet him
As, through word and song and prayer
We affirm God’s promised presence,
Where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise
Praise the Son who calls us friends
Praise the Spirit, who among us
To our hopes and fears attends.</p> | <p>3. Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language,
Such are barriers he derides.
Join the hands of friend and stranger,
join the hands of age and youth,
join the faithful and the doubter
In their common search for truth.</p> |
| <p>2. Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of all,
Sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail and fall.
Tell his holy human story
tell his tales that all may hear,
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.</p> | <p>4. Jesus calls us to his table,
rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
share the bread and wine, his body,
share the love of which we sing,
share the feast for saints and sinners,
hosted by our Lord and King.</p> |

Ascension Prayer: Louise Goff. (From ‘Summertime’ a compilation by Ruth Burgess.)

Leader: Jesus, risen to be with us always,
You are alive in our hearts,
Awakening hope, inspiring faith
empowering us with your Spirit.

Give us the courage to live for you.

Transform us with your words and your ways,
that the world might glimpse your glory
And know the wholeness of your love.
Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Leader: Listen now for the word of the Lord

Reader: Acts: 1 1-11

Thanks be to God.

Reading 1. "Goodbye" by Jo Love, from Spill the Beans (From: Summer a compilation by Ruth Burgess)

Pause:

Reading 2: Ascension questions by Pam Hawthorn (From Summer a compilation by Ruth Burgess)

Pause:

Time for telling our own stories, poems or reflections: Come forward and light a candle if you would like.

Memories can be upsetting for some people so please be sensitive to others and if anyone wants to discuss anything after the service John will be available to talk to you privately.

Song: Ascension song by Avis Palmer. (Tune 'Aurelia') (ibid)

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| <p>1. We come to you, Lord Jesus,
With much we need to say
In hope and love and longing
We seek a way to pray.
We yearn for understanding,
For peace in place of fear;
Assured of your presence,
show us that you are near.</p> | <p>3. Ascended Lord, no boundaries
of time exist for you.
Your words of peace once spoken
are for our hearing too.
A gift to heal our heartache
a prayer phrase to recite;
your deepening peace within us
turns darkness into light.</p> |
| <p>2. The first disciples knew you;
Though they had locked the door,
In Easter love you entered,
spoke words to reassure.
The hands you held out to them
disfigured by the cross
made real the peace you offered,
born out of pain and loss.</p> | <p>4. Christ, lover of all people,
your peace we're called to share.
However life is threatened,
your peace demands we care.
empower our search for justice,
inspire us in the quest,
till reconciled, the whole world
with Love's shalom is blessed.</p> |

Affirmation of Faith:

Leader: We believe in God

All: who is older than eternity and younger than our next breath;
who is beyond describing yet knows us all by name;
yet cannot be contained by religion.

Leader: We believe in Jesus Christ flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone.
He came in the body to give worth to every human life;

**He touched the untouchable, loved the unlovable
and endured slander, persecution and death.**

Leader: We believe that God's Kingdom comes on earth through Christ's suffering and love.
He rose from the grave as living proof that what is laid down in faith will be raised in glory.

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit.
**Who leads us into truth and freedom, who works through prayer and politics,
through justice and care of creation and the healing of the nations.**

Leader; We celebrate the potential God has given:
**The life in our bodies, the yearning of our souls, the promise of good things in store
for those who love and serve their Maker.**

Prayers:

Chant: Through our lives and by our prayers your Kingdom come.

Leader: Let us pray

There is a time for every purpose under heaven and a prayer for every person on earth.

A time for gratitude.....

A time to say sorry.....

A time for forgiveness.....

Chant

A time for saying goodbye.....

A time for new beginnings.....

Chant

A time for confronting what we are avoiding.....

A time for recognising what we hope for.....

Chant

A time for those in physical or mental pain.....

A time for those who have been healed.....

Chant

A time for those who fear tomorrow.....

A time for those who have been blessed today.....

Chant

A time for what we only share with God.....

Chant:

Leader: Creator of the world and all its people, we are glad that all things are held in your hands.
You have not left us alone.

We celebrate the work of your spirit encouraging people the world over to work for justice
and peace, to speak for the voiceless and always to anticipate that the best is yet to come.

Amen

Song: Meekness and majesty CG 86

**Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,
In perfect harmony – the man who is God:
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility and washes our feet
 Oh what a mystery – meekness and majesty:
 Bow down and worship, for this is your God,
 This is your God.**

**Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience to death on the cross:
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice –
and, as they crucify, prays, 'Father forgive'
 Refrain**

**Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
love indestructible in frailty appears:
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.
 Refrain**

Closing prayers:

**Leader: Go in the power of the Spirit.
Go, and do not try to separate politics and prayer.
Go, not to escape, but to engage with God's world.
Go, to live hopefully, as people of resurrection.**

**All: May the God of Peace inspire us,
May the God of justice empower us,
May the God of Hope encourage us
to live the Good News.
Amen**