

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 26th March 2023 5pm Theme: Sharing

Gathering Song: 🎵

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell, how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where hands will reach, beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger, bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed, as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Responses:

- Leader:** We light a candle in the name of the Maker,
All: **who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us...**
- Leader:** We light a candle in the name of the Son,
All: **who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us...**
- Leader:** We light a candle in the name of the Spirit,
All: **who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning...**
- Leader:** We light three candles for the Trinity of Love:
All: **God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:**
The beginning, the end, the everlasting One.

Prayer:

- Leader:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, stay with us for day is ending.
With friend, with stranger, with young and with old, be among us tonight.
Come close to us that we may come close to you.
Forgive us that we may forgive one another.
Renew us so that, where we have failed, we may begin again. Amen

Song: 🎵

1. **We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild flowers growing,
for we are part of all that is, within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share, the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life, in every earthly nation.**

2. **When bodies shiver in the night, and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warnings,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life, in oneness with their neighbour.**
3. **God calls humanity to join, as partners in creating,
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life, and peace endure for ever.**

Bible reading: (Luke 15 v 11-32) The parable of the lost son

Listen now for the word of God

¹¹ Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

¹³ 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ 'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him.

²¹ 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

²² 'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

²⁸ 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

³¹ "'My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Reader: For the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Time of Sharing: *Time to share thoughts and stories about sharing.*

Song: 🎵

1. **Love is the welcome that comes from the heart
and opens the door to the stranger
which makes of its house, a resting place for all,
for the sake of the babe in the manger.**

2. Love is the struggle for justice and peace
that the cause of the weak may inherit,
the wretched of earth, see a new day brought to birth
in the strength of the gentle in spirit.
3. Love is the touch that does not draw back
from the maimed and the hurt and the broken,
but embraces their pain, and calls them by their name,
that the word of compassion is spoken.
4. Love is the life that responds to the call
and chooses its truth as its treasures
and walks with the one, who says, 'Come and follow me,
for to show you the way is my pleasure.'
5. Love is the table that's laid for a feast
at the meeting of sisters and brothers.
In the bread that is shared, and the wine that is poured out,
is the life that was broken for others.

Prayers of concern:

Leader: You are above us, O God, you are beneath.
You are in air, you are in earth, you are beside us, you are within.
O God, you are in the betrayed and suffering people of our world,
just as you were in the body of Jesus.
We pray now for all that concerns us, as we sit at table together.
Let us offer our own prayers, both spoken and unspoken.

The Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father in heaven, holy is your name;
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

Song: 🎵

1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets,
no-one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen Lord Jesus, I am lonely too; make me,
friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals, and real hope retreats.
Listen Lord Jesus, I feel anger too;
in the Kingdom's causes, let me rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets,
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen Lord Jesus, I have pity too;
let my care be active, healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets
where each sign of hatred, he, with love defeats.
Listen Lord Jesus, I should triumph too;
where good conquers evil, let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets.
'Who will join my journey? I will guide your feet.'
Listen Lord Jesus, let my fears be few;
walk one step before me, I will follow you.

Closing responses:

- Leader:** Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness,
All: **God's own for the world.**
- Leader:** Look at your feet, see the path and the direction,
All: **God's own for the world.**
- Leader:** Look at your heart, see the fire and the love,
All: **God's own for the world.**
- Leader:** Look at the cross, see God's Son and our saviour,
All: **God's own for the world.**
- Leader:** This is God's world,
All: **and we will serve God in it.**

Blessing:

- Leader:** Jesus said, 'I am with you always.'
All: **May God the Creator bless us.**
May God the Son walk with us.
May God the Spirit lead our lives with love. Amen

The Peace:

- Leader:** The peace of Christ is here to stay. Let us share his peace with one another and our communities.

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THE NEXT PERSHORE ABBEY IONA SERVICE WILL BE AT
5PM ON SUNDAY 23rd APRIL