

# Pershore Abbey Iona Service 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 5pm

## Theme: The Word Within

### Gathering Song: 🎵

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:** Welcome, Holy Spirit,  
**All:** **we celebrate your presence.**  
**Leader:** Welcome, Comforter,  
**All:** **touch our souls with your peace.**  
**Leader:** Welcome, Awakener,  
**All:** **touch our souls with your life.**  
**Leader:** Welcome, Disturber,  
**All:** **touch our souls with your truth.**

#### Prayer:

**Leader:** Wild Spirit of God, come refresh and restore us! Blow through our tiredness, disturb our dull routines, awaken our expectations, alert us to your presence, excite our faith, until the fire of your love takes hold in us again and your Pentecost light warms every heart and draws others to you, the source of all life and joy. **Amen**

#### Bible Reading: (Genesis 1 v1-10)

**Reader:** Listen now to the Word of God.

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. **3** And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. **6** And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." **7** So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. **8** God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. **9** And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. **10** God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

**Reader:** 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.**

**Song:** 🎵

1. She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters, hovering on the chaos of the world's first day; she sighs and she sings, mothering creation, waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.
2. She wings over earth, resting where she wishes, lighting close at hand or soaring through the skies; she nests in the womb, welcoming each wonder, nourishing potential hidden to our eyes.
3. She dances in fire, startling her spectators, waking tongues of ecstasy where dumbness reigned; she weans and inspires all whose hearts are open, nor can she be captured, silenced or restrained.
4. For she is the Spirit, one with God in essence, gifted by the Saviour in eternal love; she is the key, opening the scriptures, enemy of apathy and heavenly dove.

**Reading:** *(Without a word - Jo Love, Summer)*

The wind has many voices: she can howl; she can whisper; she can shriek; she can sigh; she can whistle.

Without a word, the wind has many voices.

And she goes where she pleases: blowing away cobwebs; bringing down trees; picking up sand grains; rustling leaves; cooling a hot day; biting through layers of winter warmth; shifting clouds; pushing at our backs; throwing rain at our faces; stirring up waves; stretching out sails; bending grass; tugging at flags; dislodging roof tiles; rattling windows; turning turbines.

Fierce. Exciting. Refreshing. Caressing. Breath of creation. Uncontrollable.

The breath in our bodies has many voices: gasps of relief; groans of despair; whoops of excitement; gulps of shock; grunts of displeasure; moans of grief; guffaws of laughter; wails of pain; shrieks of delight.

Without a word, our breath has many voices.

Prayer has many voices.

The Spirit without, meets the spirit within.

Wind and breath in sighs and squalls, Spirit blowing where she will.

No words needed.

**Prayers:**

**Leader:** God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes to the wonder and beauty of creation,

**All:** **we give you thanks.**

**Leader:** For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

**All:** **we give you thanks.**

**Leader:** For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion,

**All:** **we give you thanks.**

**Leader:** For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve,

**All:** **we give you thanks.**

**Leader:** God we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus, and draw us into your presence.

**All:** **Amen**

**Prayer Song:** 🎵 (Sing 3 times)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**Song:** 🎵

1. Spirit of God, I long to live, a life, not act a part.  
Confused and hurt, I ask you now, to show me where to start.
2. Here, in the loneliness of pain, keep company with me.  
My body is your space. Make room for courage. Set me free.
3. Deep in the hidden heart of fear, my hope is turning sour.  
Prepare and help my anxious mind, to open to your power.
4. Lost in a restless rush for change, my spirit lacks the pace.  
Express yourself in me. Present a challenge not a race.
5. Spirit of God, be real in me, with me becoming one;  
make body, mind and spirit whole, and I am well begun.

**Time for sharing:**

**Song:** 🎵

**CHORUS:** The God of heaven is present on earth, in word and silence and sharing,  
in face of doubt, in depth of faith, in signs of love and caring.

1. Gentler than air, wilder than wind, settling yet also deranging,  
the Spirit thrives in human lives, both changeless and yet changing. *CHORUS*
2. Far from the church, outside the fold, where prayer turns feeble and nervous,  
the Spirit wills society's ills, be healed through humble service. *CHORUS*
3. Truth after tears, trust after fears, God making everyone wiser:  
the Spirit springs through hopeless things, transforming what defies her. *CHORUS*

**Blessing:**

**All:** May the song of the Spirit inspire our dreams,  
the direction of the Spirit set our course,  
and the energy of the Spirit fill our sails. Amen

**The Grace:**

**All:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen

.....

**NEXT IONA SERVICE: 5pm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June in Pershore Abbey and via Zoom**