

# Pershore Abbey Iona Service 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 5pm

## Theme: Our Lives in Community

**15:30 – 16:45 Time of Hospitality and Sharing:** Grace (*adapted from a grace by Chris Polhill*)

The Maker's blessing be upon this food  
the Christ's blessing be upon each one  
the Spirit's blessing weave through words and listening; taste and digesting.  
God's blessing be upon our sharing. Amen

### 17:00 Service

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

### Welcome and Introduction:

#### Opening Responses:

**Leader:** Creator of the world, eternal God,  
**ALL:** we have come from many places for a little while.  
**Leader:** Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,  
**ALL:** we have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.  
**Leader:** Spirit of unity, go-between God,  
**ALL:** we have come on journeys of our own, to a place where journeys meet.  
**Leader:** So here, in this shelter house, let us take time together.  
For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share.  
**ALL:** In your name, three-in-one God, pattern of community. AMEN.

**Song:** 🎵 *Jesus calls us here to meet him*

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.
2. Jesus calls us to confess him, Word of Life and Lord of all,  
sharer of our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail or 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.
3. Jesus calls us to each other: vastly different though we are;  
race and colour, class and gender, neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger; join the hand of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter, in their common search for truth.
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 of saints and sinners, hosted by our Lord and King.

**Time for sharing and reflection:**

**Affirmation:**

**ALL: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth, to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,**

**the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church,**

**spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. AMEN**

**Bible Reading: John 21 v 1 -14**

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

**21** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.<sup>[a]</sup> It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[b]</sup>), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

<sup>6</sup> He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**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: ♪ (*Love is the welcome' tune Loch Lomond*)**

- 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:**

**Leader:** Lord in your mercy.....

**All:** hear our prayer.

**Closing Responses:**

**Leader:** With the whole church

**All:** **We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
Befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

**Leader:** With people everywhere

**All:** **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

**Leader:** With all creation

**All:** **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,  
The unfolding purposes of God,  
Forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

**Blessing:**

**Leader:** May the encircling love of the Creator, fill our dreams.  
May the enfolding arms of Christ, nurture our hope.  
May the encompassing power of the Spirit, inspire our prayers.

**All:** **Amen**

**Closing Thoughts**

**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**

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