

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 22nd September 2024 5pm

Theme: Where Journeys Meet

Welcome and Introduction:

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

Opening Responses:

Leader: Creator of community,
All: **we gather as our journeys meet.**

Leader: Generous and inclusive friend,
All: **we rejoice in our friendship here.**

Leader: Lover of laughter and song,
All: **we offer these to you.**

Leader: Giver of our daily bread,
All: **we thank you for all that nourishes us.**

Leader: God, our constant Companion,
All: **be present in our sharing. Amen.**

Bible Reading: *(John 6 verses 1 – 13 Jesus feeds the five thousand)*

Reader: Listen now to the Word of God.

Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves,

gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

.....*PAUSE FOR REFLECTION*.....

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: 🎵 *(Known Unknown 26 God our Creator. Tune Bunessan – Morning has broken)*

1. **God our creator, you in love made us,
we once were nothing, but now have grown.
We bring the best of all our lives offer;
for you we share, whatever we own.**

2. **O Christ our Saviour, you in love called us,
we once were no-one, and felt unknown.
We pledge to go wherever you summon,
making your will and purpose our own.**

3. **O God the Spirit, you in love move us,
we once were nowhere, far from our home.
We know our need of, you for companion;
all things can change when not on our own.**

4. **And with the people, summoned together,
to be the Church in which faith is sown,
we make our promise, to live for Jesus,
and let the world know, all are God's own.**

Time to share refreshments and thoughts:

You are invited to share food and drink, and to share your thoughts on this Iona Service time and space. Please jot down your thoughts on the pieces of paper if you are happy to share them.

- *What brought you here tonight?*
- *Do you have any news or thoughts to share?*
- *What themes could be explored in this Iona Service time during the year?*
- *How can we all contribute to this special space where journeys meet?*

Grace: *(from Christian Aid)*

All: **We long for a world**
Where food is joyfully shared,
Where welcome is abundant,
Where \compassion reaches all.
As we work towards your kingdom,
We thank you God,
For food for the journey.
Amen

Affirmation:

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.

Discussion: *Time to look at and discuss our thoughts written on paper.*

Song: 🎵 *(Common Ground 2 Abundant Life)*

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 warning,
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 forever.

Closing 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: In this special time and meeting place, we give you thanks
All: for the freedom to speak and the opportunity to listen and reflect.
Leader: For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share.
All: In your name, three-in-one God, pattern of community. Amen.

The Grace:

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

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NEXT IONA SERVICE IS AT 5pm on SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER

N.B. As a response to the ongoing suffering in the Middle East, Christian Aid are organising online times of sharing and prayer. The next one is on Tuesday 24th September. Please see this link for further details. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/prayers-peace-middle-east>