

Prayers for World Peace

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 5pm Sunday 27th April 2025

Welcome

Introduction: *There will be three times of prayer altogether in the Apse, at the beginning, middle and end of this service. In between those times will be time when you can move around the different prayer stations in the Abbey for individual prayer and reflection. Prayer stations will include:*

- *'Peace is ...' – definitions of peace. Which mean something to you? How do you define peace? Write your own 'Peace is*
- *Prayer pebbles – choose and hold a pebble as you offer your own prayers for peace. If you wish you can write your own prayer or read the prayers and poems on the table. Place your pebble around the cross.*
- *Light a candle to symbolise God's light in an area of the world. Read the stories and light a candle to place near the globe.*

Gathering Song:

**Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here.**

**Be still for the peace of the Lord
Is shining in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the peace of the Lord
Is shining in this place.**

Prayer:

Leader: Loving God, in this space we have the opportunity to be vulnerable to things we would rather not think about, to have our preconceived ideas challenged, to step back from the narratives of politicians, the media and interest groups and to focus on your priorities.
Help us to be open to you speaking to us and changing us. **Amen**

Time for Individual Reflection and Prayer: *Please feel free to wander around the Abbey to the different prayer stations. When you hear the chant ‘Oh Lord, hear our prayer’, this will be followed by some prayers or readings. You are welcome to stay at the prayer stations or you may wish to return to gather in the Apse to join in the prayers.*

Song: 🎵 **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**

Time to share a reading, a definition of peace, a concern or a prayer

Affirmation:

Reader A: Let us pray.

Just and merciful God,
we glimpse your presence in the world you have created,
its power and its beauty, music and poetry,
its diversity, fertility, the possibility of food for everyone,
the dream of fullness of life for all your children:

All: **Yes, God, you are with us in this world.**

Reader B: Yet we see that power misused, beauty marred,
discord and lies dividing humankind, failure to share,
causing many to go hungry or die.

All: **Where are you God?**

Reader A: We hear the Good News that Jesus brought,
the affirmation of the value of every human life,
the Gospel that commands us to seek peace with justice,
we understand that costly reconciliation is at its heart:

All: Yes God, you are with us in this world.

Reader B: Yet we see that good news denied by apathy,
mocked by prejudice, hatred and refusal to forgive,
and we feel helpless in the face of suffering.

All: Where are you God?

(PAUSE)

**You are present where women and men of good will
still choose to live in your way,
caring for creation and for each other,
courageously speaking truth to power.
You are there when elderly people share their wisdom.
You are there when people share and listen.
You are present wherever, in this broken world,
hope is alive.
Thank you, God, for being present with us now. Amen**

Further Time for Individual Reflection and Prayer: *Please feel free to wander around the Abbey to the different prayer stations. When you hear the chant 'Oh Lord, hear our prayer', there will be some prayers or readings. You are welcome to stay at the prayer stations or you may wish to return to gather in the Apse.*

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Song: ♪ **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.**

Closing prayers: *(Linda Jones/CAFOD)*

Leader: God of all, as we walk together, open our hearts
All: to your tenderness.

Leader: Open our minds
All: **to your understanding.**
Leader: Open our lives
All: **to your challenge.**
Leader: We are one people, many nations,
building hope through steps for peace.
One world with many barriers,
All: **breaking chains so we dance free.**
Leader: One voice that shouts for justice
All: **shatters hatred, calls for change.**
Leader: One God, one world, one people,
All: **turning tables, share the feast. Amen.**

Song: 🎵 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FB3fdvPQDRI>

1. **Shalom my friend, Shalom my friend, Shalom, Shalom.
God's peace be with you, God's peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**
2. **Shalom my friend, Shalom my friend, Shalom, Shalom.
'Til we meet again, 'til we meet again,
Shalom, Shalom.**
3. **Shalom my friend, Shalom my friend, Shalom, Shalom.
God's peace be with you, God's peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

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The next Iona service will be at **5pm on Sunday 25th May in Pershore Abbey.**