

Iona Evening Service of Prayer for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.

Welcome and Introduction

Song: Jesus calls us here to meet him. CG: 66

Opening Responses

Leader: O God who called life into being

All: **The earth sea and sky are yours**

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

All: **Every atom is full of your energy**

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk on earth

All: **With her we yearn for justice to be done.**

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage

All: **For the hungry to be fed**

Leader: For captives to be released

All: **For your Kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

Prayer:

Voice A : Just and merciful God, we glimpse your presence in the world you have created, its power and it's beauty, music and poetry, it's 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.**

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

All: **Where are you God?**

Voice 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.**

Voice 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?**

All: **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 street children dance in the rain. You are present wherever, in this broken world, hope is alive.**

Readings:

Reader: Listen now for the word of the Lord

Isaiah 11:1-9

Discussion:

‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. ‘

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

The power of choosing good and evil is within the reach of all. Origen of Alexandria

“I want to see a mighty flood of justice- a torrent of doing good. Amos 5:24

Let the desire for revenge be the birth of forgiveness. Let the birth of forgiveness be the beginning of trust.
Tom Gordon – Look well to this Day

Affirmation from South Africa:

All: We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn, in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over the barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change, and put ourselves on the line, to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge, to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God’s new community of hope. Amen.

Song: Christ be our light CG 21

Prayers of Concern: There will be a pause for prayer request , aloud or silently before each chant.

Leader: We bring to God, someone we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

Chant: Oh Lord hear my prayer. CG 94

We bring to God, someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer.

Oh Lord hear my prayer.

We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight.

Oh Lord hear my prayer

We bring to God, silently, someone we find hard to forgive or trust.

Oh Lord hear my prayer

All: We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.

Song: Here I am Lord: CG 50

Closing prayers:

**All: May the God of Peace inspire us,
 May the God of Justice empower us,
 May the God of Hope encourage us
 to live the good news.**

**Leader: Go, in the power of the Spirit.
 Go, and do not try to separate politics and prayer.
 Go, not to escape, but to engage with God's world.
 Go, to live hopefully, as people of resurrection.
 Amen**

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The next Iona Service will be at 5.00pm in Pershore Abbey on the 27th July 2025