

# **Pershore Abbey Iona Service - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025 5pm**

## **Theme: A cup of cold water**

**Welcome and Introduction:** Matthew 10:42 New Living Translation

"If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

**Gathering Song:** 🎵 God welcomes all, strangers and friends.  
God's love is strong and it never ends. ( X 3 )

### **Opening responses:**

**Leader:** O God, you called all 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 the earth,  
**All:** With her we yearn for justice to be done, and the captives released,  
for creation to be free from threat, and people to be free from greed,  
for the hungry to have food, and the thirsty, water,  
for your kingdom of peace to come on earth. Amen

**Song:** 🎵 (tune: *Jesus calls us here to meet him*)

1. God sends springs into the valleys,  
flowing softly through the hills.  
God sends streams down from the mountains,  
leaping over rocks and rills.  
He fills rivers; he fills oceans.  
Oh, what bounty overflows!  
But his gift of living water  
Quenches thirst within my soul.
2. God provides in great abundance;  
of his bounty he has said:  
"I'll not see the thirsty wanting  
or the hungry begging bread."  
Father, keep it still before me:  
greatest bounty you bestow  
is the Christ, the living water,  
spring of life to fill my soul.

**Bible Reading:** John 4 v1-15: Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman

**Reader:** Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptising more disciples than John – <sup>2</sup> although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised, but his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'

<sup>11</sup> 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?'

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'

**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.**

**Reflection:**    *(based on Matthew 10:42 'A cup of cold water from 'Summer' edited by Ruth Burgess)*

A cup of cold water. Would you really call this a welcoming thing to offer? Good hospitality? Just plain cold water from the tap? Not very impressive. Not to me or you anyway. Just turn on the tap and here it is, without any effort. Just boring old water. Colourless, pretty tasteless, but on the plus side, it's clean and fresh, safe and reliable.

*Pause and drink*

A cup of cold water to drink. It's the least you can do for someone. The very least. The bare minimum in fact. Even if you run out of tea and coffee and haven't so much as a digestive biscuit in the house, you can surely give a cup of water.

*Pause and drink*

A cup of cold water. One in six people can only dream of this. A billion people across the world would give anything to be able to turn on a tap and pour out a cup of cold water. Every year, millions of people, millions of ordinary people just like us, die from preventable diseases linked directly to the lack of safe water.

*Pause and drink*

A cup of cold water. It can mean so little. It can mean so much. Either way, thirst-quenching matters. It's kingdom work.

*Pause and drink*

Cheers!

**Song:** 🎵 (repeat 3 times)

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you shared,  
I, the stranger, you embraced when no one dared.  
I was naked and you clothed me, I was ill and still you cared;  
when in prison you ensured my sanity was spared.

### Time for Sharing

#### Prayers:

**Leader:** Father God, you created this blue-green planet, blessed with water – springs, burns and rivers flowing down to the great ocean, mist and rain helping the land to grow green, enabling life in all its diversity. Water connects us with all living things and the planet.

**All:** **We thank you for water, reflecting light, giving life.**

(pause)

**Leader:** Jesus, living in a land where water was highly treasured, you used it to connect with others, to share and cleanse, to make stories real and draw people in.

**All:** **We thank you for your use of water, reflecting light and giving life.**

(pause)

**Leader:** Spirit, Jesus described you as Living Water, which surprises, enriches and transforms our lives.

**All:** **We thank you for being Living Water, reflecting light, giving life.**

(pause)

**Leader:** Whenever we quench our thirst with water, wash, swim, water the garden or get soaked in the rain, may we remember those who have no choice but to drink contaminated water, who pray for rain as well as those who withhold access to water from others.

**All:** **May we be Living Water, reflecting light, giving life. Amen**

**Song:** 🎵

1. God fill our cup to overflowing, and give us grace to share all that we are and are becoming, through love and care.
2. God fill our lives to overflowing, and give us grace to share all that we are and are becoming, through love and care.
3. God fill our hearts to overflowing, and give us grace to share all that we are and are becoming, through love and care.

#### Affirmation:

**Leader:** We believe that this is God's world and all that lives in it;

**All:** **we believe that living gratefully and giving generously are marks of faith.**

**Leader:** We believe that all creation should have fair access to the earth's resources,

**All:** **and that every individual is called to share in healing creation,  
so that the children of tomorrow will not be burdened by the mistakes of today.**

**Leader:** And so, we commit ourselves,  
**All:** to respect all life, to think globally and live locally,  
to speak prophetically, trade fairly, and live generously and responsibly,  
and to walk humbly with all life, and our God. Amen

**The Grace:**

**All:** May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all,  
this night and always. Amen

**Song:** 🎵 *(music by John Rutter)*

Deep peace of the running wave to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.  
Deep peace of Christ,  
of Christ the light of the world to you.  
Deep peace of Christ to you.

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*God's Good Earth © Wild Goose Resource Group*

*We Walk His Way © John Bell*

*Deep peace of the running wave to you © John Rutter*

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**What next for Iona Services at Pershore Abbey?**

Did you know that Iona services in Pershore Abbey have been mostly organised and led by lay people for over 30 years? Could you help carry on this valued worship time?

If you feel you could join others to help organise Iona services or would like to find out more about what this could involve, please contact Helen on [iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:iona@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

**PLEASE REMEMBER THERE IS NO IONA SERVICE IN AUGUST**