

Concluding prayer

Leader Creator of all,
Saviour of all,
Spirit in all,
One God in perfect community,
All stay with us now.

Where there is apathy,
kindle the flame of your love,
Where there is deceit,
confront every lie with your truth.

Where there is hopelessness,
reveal deep wells of compassion.
Where there is joy,
let your kindly protection be known.

Where we hesitate to serve you,
make us restless until we change.

For yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever.
Amen



Blessing and dismissal

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.

We depart in peace



Welcome To Worship



The Iona Community Service for Justice and Peace

*Taken from the Iona Abbey Worship book
for use in the Blyth Valley Team Ministry*



The people gather - In this service we draw on that part of the Iona Community's Rule which is a commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

We celebrate that God wills for the world peace with justice, known in the Middle East as 'Shalom' or 'Salaam'. This is not an abstraction or something only possible in another world or eternity, but a real hope for this place and time. This justice is proclaimed by the Law and the Prophets, and is embodied in Jesus. It flows from the simple fact that God loves the world. When what God loves is threatened, those who love God cannot remain neutral.

Welcome and introduction

Opening responses

Leader: Just and merciful God, you speak through the prophets,
challenging us to seek peace rooted in justice.

All Help us to hear your urgent call.

Loving God, in Jesus you change our lives for good,
challenging us to work for reconciliation.

Help us to see your way of truth and love.

With-us God your Holy Spirit moves us to action,
challenging us to live the Good News.

**Help us to respond wholeheartedly,
here and now—to say Yes!
Amen!**

O God, who called all life into being,
the earth, sea and sky are yours.

Your presence is all around us;
every atom is full of your energy.



Affirmation of faith

Leader Let us affirm our faith:

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 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.

A time of prayer - prayers of gratitude and concern

at any point during the prayers, please feel free to come and light a candle

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father....

Our prayers conclude with the Lord's prayer, being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray...



Prayer of commitment

Leader God of new beginnings,
you long for us to live in love and justice
with our neighbours,
with friends and strangers,
with people everywhere.



**All You call us to be just and loving
in our working,
in our shopping,
in our caring
and through our prayers.**

Jesus, you were a storyteller,
you talked about money, wages, and taxes,
you told stories about integrity and forgiveness,
you helped people who were in trouble,
you listened to people who were sad.
**You call us to live as you did -
to listen to each other,
to be forgiving,
and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.**

Holy Spirit, we are discovering what you ask of us.
You are wild and wise and you speak the truth.
You challenge and comfort us,
you breathe life into us,
you shout in the streets and you whisper in our ears.
**You remind us what Jesus taught and practiced
you take us to task,
you tell us to turn around;
you call us to walk in Love's way.**

Holy Trinity, God's love in community,
every day in all our living help us to say yes to you.
Amen.

Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth.
**With her we yearn for justice to be done,
for creation to be free from threat,
for the hungry to be fed,
for captives to be released,
for your kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

Opening prayer

Leader: O God, gladly we live and move
and have our being in you.
Yet always in the midst of creation's glory,
we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness.

It is around us in the earth, sea and sky,
In the abuse of matter.
It is beside us
in the broken, the hungry and the poor,
In the betrayal of one another;
and often, deep within us,
In a striving against your Spirit.

**All O Trinity of Love, forgive us
that we may forgive one another,
heal us that we may become people of healing,
and renew us that we may be makers of peace.**
Amen

Prayer

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

Voice B Yet we see that power misused, beauty marred,
discord and lies dividing humankind,
failure to share,
causing many to go hungry or die.
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:
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.
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 the broken world,
Hope is alive.**

**Thank you, God, for being present with us now.
Amen**

Scripture readings

Reader: Listen now in the reading of scripture
for the word and wisdom of God.

(a reading from...

...followed by a silence, at the end of which
the leader says:)

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.

Psalm (as announced)

The Gospel reading (please stand and face the reader)

Reader Let us greet the Gospel of Christ with 'Alleluia!'

All ALLELUIA!

(a reading from....

...followed by a silence, at the end of which
the reader says:)

Reader This is the Gospel of Christ

All Praise to Christ our Lord.

Talk / Reflection

Song(s)

