

The Iona Community



Morning Service

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

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community of women and men who seek to live out the Gospel in a way that is radical, inclusive and relevant to life in the 21st century.

The Iona Community believes that worship is more than a religious service in a consecrated building. We believe that in all we do, we are – or should be – honouring the Maker of heaven and earth in whose image we are made. At the centre of our faith is the affirmation that God not only made the world, but loved and loves the world. This is witnessed to in the Hebrew and New Testament scriptures and is celebrated, endorsed and epitomised in the incarnate life of Jesus. His ministry was not primarily to the religious establishment of his day, but to and for the world. And it was sometimes to the distress of the pious that he highlighted the significance to God of marginalised people – particularly women, the poor and the abused – and matters of public and private practice regarding issues such as money, race, and what makes for peace and reconciliation.

This belief is affirmed in the way visitors to the Community's centres on Iona share meals, engage in daily work and conversation, and at the beginning and end of each day gather for a service of worship, most frequently in the rebuilt Benedictine Abbey Church.

These services follow a pattern, initiated by George MacLeod the founder of the Iona Community, which has developed over the years. The *Morning Service* we're using today has a set liturgy similar to a daily office, but distinct in its form and substance. Each evening service is devoted to a different aspect and discipleship in which we affirm that the concerns of the world and its people must always be allied to the will of God.

This *Morning Service* taken from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book* is offered to people of faith and doubt whose presence is always valued on Iona, and offered to God in gratitude for a legacy which began in 563AD when St. Columba landed on the island, and which, we pray, will last for many years to come.

The people gather / song



Welcome and notices

Opening responses (standing)

Leader The world belongs to God,
All the earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful
to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together;
justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,
these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Song



Call to prayer (standing)

Leader Move among us, God; give us life;
All let your people rejoice in you.

Give us again the joy of your help;
with your spirit of freedom sustain us.

God, make our hearts clean,
restore us in body, mind and spirit.

Prayer of confession (sit or kneel)

(here the leader may offer a prayer)

Leader Trusting in God's forgiveness,
Let us in silence confess our failings
And acknowledge our part in the pain of the
world.

Silence

Leader Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

**All May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Leader Amen.

**All Before God,
with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

Leader May God forgive you, Christ renew you
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Leader So now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil;
for the Kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Response of faith (standing)

Leader With the whole church

**All we affirm
that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere
**we affirm God's goodness at the
heart of humanity planted more deeply
than all that is wrong.**

With all creation
**we celebrate
the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God
for ever at work in ourselves and the
world.**

The 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.

Song



Talk / Reflection



Prayers of gratitude and concern

(Any prayers the leader may offer will end with the following response:)

Leader Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

The Peace (the peace is shared by all with the words)

Leader Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of God
in Jesus Christ be with you all.

All And also with you

Closing responses (standing)

Leader This is the day that God has made;
All we will rejoice and be glad in it.

We will not offer to God
offerings that cost us nothing.

Go in peace to love and to serve;
we will seek peace and pursue it.

In the name of the Trinity of Love,
God in community, holy and one

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:
wherever he may send you; may he guide you
through the wilderness : protect you through
the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing:
at the wonders he has shown you; may he
bring you home rejoicing : once again into our
doors.

Song



Lively

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - - le - - - lu - - - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - - lu - - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - - le - - lu - - - jah! Hal - le -

- lu - jah! Hal - le - - lu - - jah!
Hal - le - lu - jah!

Traditional