

## A Time for Remembering

Pershore Abbey Iona Service 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021 5pm

### WELCOME and INTRODUCTION:

#### GATHERING SONG: ♪ 'All are Welcome' (4 CG v 1, 4, 5)

Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

### OPENING RESPONSES:

**Leader:** Come to us this night, O God,

**ALL:** **come to us with light.**

**Leader:** Speak to us this night, O God,

**ALL:** **speak to us your truth.**

**Leader:** Dwell with us this night, O God,

**ALL:** **dwell with us in love.**

### REFLECTION: from Anam Cara by John O'Donohue

Old age, as the harvest of life, is a time where your times and their fragments gather. In this way you unify yourself, achieve new strength, poise and belonging, that was never available to you, when you were distractedly rushing through your days. Old age is a time of coming home to your deeper nature, of entering fully into the temple of your memory where all your vanished days are secretly gathered awaiting you.

**SONG:** 🎵 Love is the touch of intangible joy; (80 CG)  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

**PRAYER OF THANKS:**

**Leader:** Thanks be to you O Christ,

**All:** for the many gifts you have bestowed on us,  
each day and night, each sea and land,  
each weather fair, each calm, each wild.

**Leader:** Each night may we remember your mercy  
given so gently and generously.

**All:** Each thing we have received, from you it came;  
Each thing for which we hope, from your love it will come.

**Leader:** Each night may we remember those who have blessed our path.

**All:** Each person who has helped, encouraged or inspired us;  
Each person who has challenged, disturbed or changed us.

**Leader:** Thanks be to you O Christ,

**All:** for meeting us in friend and stranger,  
for being ever by our side. Amen

**SONG:** 🎵 Listen to the word which God has spoken;  
listen to the One who is close at hand;  
listen to the voice behind creation;  
listen even if you don't understand. (sing 3 times)

**BIBLE READING:** Luke 7 v.36 - 40

**Reader:** A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. Jesus went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind Jesus, at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.'

Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.'

'Tell me, teacher,' he said.

**SONG:** 🎵 **Listen to the word which God has spoken;  
listen to the One who is close at hand;  
listen to the voice behind creation;  
listen even if you don't understand. (sing 3 times)**

**TIME OF SHARING:** *You are welcome to share a memory, show a memento or photo, and light a candle as we spend time remembering those who have touched our lives.*

**PRAYER:**

**Leader:** Thanks be to you O Christ, for our precious memories,

**All:** **for meeting us in friend and stranger,  
for being ever by our side. Amen**

**INTERCESSORY SONG:** 🎵

**Cantor:** 1. Day is almost ended.

**All (chorus):** **Jesus Christ, Lord of all, stay with us now.**

**Cantor:** 2. Find your way among us: **All: (Chorus)**

**Cantor:** 3. Listen to the anxious: “

**Cantor:** 4. Sit beside the lonely: “

**Cantor:** 5. Contradict the callous: “

**Cantor:** 6. Comfort and disturb us: “

**Cantor:** 7. Do not ever leave us: “

**Cantor:** 8. Even when we doubt you: “

**Cantor:** 9. Maker of tomorrow: “

**Cantor:** 10. Keep us through the darkness: “

**A PRAYER FOR SMOORING THE FIRE:**    *(the candles are put out)*

At night the ashes were smooored over the burning coals, sealing off the air. The next morning the still glowing coals would be uncovered.

**Leader:**     The sacred Three,

**All:**            **To save, to shield, to surround,**

**Leader:**     The hearth, the house, the household,

**All:**            **This eve, this night, Oh! this eve,**

**Leader:**     This night, and every night, each single night.

**All:**            **Amen**

**CLOSING RESPONSES:**

**Leader:**     O Trinity of love, you have been with us at the world's beginning,


**All:**            **be with us till the world's end.**

**Leader:**     You have been with us at our life's shaping,

**All:**            **be with us at our life's end.**

**Leader:**     You have been with us at the sun's rising,

**All:**            **be with us till the day's end.    Amen**

**BLESSING:**        *(sing 3 times 42 CG)*

**God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,**

**Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;**

**so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,**

**lead you through darkness into the light.**

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**PERSHORE ABBEY IONA IN NOVEMBER**

The fourth Sunday in November falls on Advent Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Many people will want to attend the Advent Carol service at 3pm in the Abbey.

We are thinking of having a more social Iona gathering, which works round the time of the carol service. There won't be the usual 5pm Iona service. We'll let you know what we plan to do instead.