

Iona Style Service – Sunday 28th November 2021.

Theme: Watching, Waiting and Praying

Welcome and Introduction.

Call to worship

Leader: In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of the darkness – unselfishness and greed, suffering and repression – shall be no more.

Opening responses:

Leader: In the beginning when it was very dark God said, *“Let there be light”*

All: and there was light.

Leader: God’s light goes on shining in the darkness

All: And the darkness has never put it out.

**All: Lord, by your presence, light up the past
that we may learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present, that we may live in it with love.
Light up the future, that we may prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready
to encounter the lord who is always ready and always with
us.**

Song: ‘Advent is a time of waiting’ (*Tune: Westminster Abbey*)

1. Advent is a time of waiting
For the life that is to be.
When the Christ, by prophets promised,
Sits enthroned on Mary’s knee,
Human in the way that we are;
Come to earth for you and me.

2. Choirs of angels are rehearsing,
‘Glory to our God on high’.
Shepherds in the fields are watching
where their bleating charges lie.
Distant magi, waiting, restless,
Scan the dark mysterious sky.
3. Hope is all our theme for Advent
Hope for all the human race.
All our hope on God is founded,
God who shows a human face.
God who made the earth and planets
Now appears in time and space.

Bible Reading: Matthew 5: 14-16.

‘Jesus said: you are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lamp-stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others, so that they will see the good things that you do and praise God in heaven.’

Activity:

**Prayer: We light our candles for all God’s people,
struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.
God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

Prayers:

Leader: We thank God for the people whose lives have been like light in dark places. . . .
God in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

We pray for those whose lives are full of darkness, that they may see God’s light....

Leader: God in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for ourselves, that God's light may shine in us....

God in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer. Amen

Song: 'No Wind at the Window'

1. No wind at the window,
No knock at the door
No light from the lampstand,
No foot on the floor
No dream born of tiredness,
No ghost raised by fear:
Just an angel and a woman
And a voice in her ear.
2. 'This child must be born
that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
destruction for some;
both end and beginning,
both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
both yours and divine.
3. 'Oh Mary, oh Mary,
Don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favoured
And filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming
The world has begun;
And you are requested
To mother God's son.'

4. No payment was promised
No promises made;
no wedding was dated,
no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
'Tell God, I say yes.'

Pause for reflection.

Closing Prayers:

Leader; The light of God

All: To lead us and make us unafraid.

The power of God

To protect us and make us strong.

The joy of God

To heal us and make us happy.

The grace of God

To bless us and keep us loving now and evermore. Amen

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THERE WILL NOT BE AN IONA SERVICE IN DECEMBER,
SO OUR NEXT SERVICE IS THE 23RD JANUARY 2022 AT 5PM.