

Dreams, Hopes and Prayers

IONA PRAYERS 30th June 2021 7.30pm via Zoom

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SONG: 🎵 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 prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

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: Out of darkness came light;

All: and the power of God was revealed
in the running wave and the flowing air,
in the quiet earth and the shining stars.

Leader: Out of the dust came life;

All: and the image of God was revealed
in the energy of life and the struggle to survive,
in the compassionate heart and the creative mind.

Leader: Out of justice came freedom;

All: and the wisdom of God was revealed
In the need to grow and the will to love,
In the chance to change and the power to choose.

Leader: And God looked at creation,

All: and saw that it is very good.

SONG: ♪ We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild flowers growing,
for we are part of all that is, within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share, the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life, in every earthly nation.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

BIBLE READING:

Reader 1: Listen now for the word of God.
(*Isaiah 65 v 17 – 25*)

Reader 1: For the word of God in scripture,

All: for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,
thanks be to God. Amen

PRAYERS:

Leader: Giving God, you blessed us with saltiness,

All: But we became bland.

Leader: You trusted us with your Word,

All: But we did not keep it.

Leader: You lit a flame in our midst,

All: But we hid it under formality, smothered it with our fears.

Leader: God in your mercy,

All: forgive us. (silence)

Leader: Forgiving God, we believe that you have called us

All: to be salt and light;

Leader: that you offer us time and space and strength

All: to begin again. (silence)

Leader: Giving and forgiving God,

All: we thank you. AMEN

REFLECTION: We are often bombarded with bad news stories and doom filled predictions. After a while it becomes difficult to imagine a 'good future'. Not only is this bad news for our mental health, but we lose our saltiness, our ability to feel that we can make a difference.

The following reflection might help you imagine what a child, or another living thing, in the future, could feel was a good world, a good community. There will be time to reflect and to write or draw in the circles, your dreams, hopes and prayers about a good future.

The midsummer sun tussles me awake. Far too early for my sleeping sister, who stirs but does not see me slip out of bed, and into the waiting garden.

Our neighbour waves on his morning round, tending his vegetables. A thrush batters a snail shell against a stone. I let the hens out to forage amongst the trees. Somewhere, a blackbird sings announcing that this is the day that matters most, not yesterday, nor tomorrow, but this perfect day.

Use your senses, your feelings, your curiosity to explore this perfect day.

What is this good future like for the child, the blackbird, a tree, the neighbour...?

Write phrases, draw pictures in the dream catching circle.

(TIME FOR REFLECTION)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/events-dates-and-inspiration/events/dawn-chorus/>

DISCUSSION: sharing circles and photo stories

SONG: 🎵 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children that tomorrow will bear.

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ re-connect us,
using us gently and making us one.

PRAYERS: (*Sharing of our dreams, hopes and visions using words, thoughts and photos*)

Leader: O Lord hear our prayer,

All: O Lord hear our prayer, come and listen to us.

SONG: 🎵 Today I awake and God is before me.
At night, as I dreamt, he summoned the day;
for God never sleeps but patterns the morning
with slithers of gold or glory in grey.

Today I arise and Christ is beside me.
He walked through the dark to scatter new light.
Yes, Christ is alive, and beckons his people
to hope and to heal, resist and invite.

Today I affirm the Spirit within me
at worship and work, in struggle and rest.
The Spirit inspires all life which is changing
from fearing to faith, from broken to blest.

Today I enjoy the Trinity round me,
above and beneath, before and behind;
the Maker, the Son, the Spirit together –
they called me to life and call me their friend.

CLOSING RESPONSES:

Leader: With the whole church

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

Leader: With people everywhere

All: **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

Leader: With all creation

All: **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
The unfolding purposes of God,
Forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

BLESSING:

All: **May the encircling love of the Creator, fill our dreams.
May the enfolding arms of Christ, nurture our hope.
May the encompassing power of the Spirit, inspire our prayers.
Amen**

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<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/dreams-hopes-and-prayers.php>

When we let ourselves dream of a better future, we free ourselves to imagine.

When we share our hopes, we inspire others.

When we work together, our prayers can become a reality.