

Iona Evening Prayers - Theme: Trust Sunday 25th July 2021 5pm

Welcome and Introduction:

Gathering song: God welcomes all, strangers and friends, God's love is strong and it never ends. X3

Opening responses:

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

All: And there was light. *(a lit candle is placed centrally)*

In the beginning when it was very quiet,
The Word was with God.

And what God was, the Word was. *(an open bible is placed centrally)*

When the time was right, God sent the Son.

He came among us; He was one of us. *(a cross is placed centrally.)*

Leader: This is the time when light fades and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued –
All as God intended.

All: Amen

This is the time when bodies relax, minds unwind, and tiredness comes –
All as God intended.

All: Amen

This is the time when others greet the morning while we meet the night,
And the world continues to sing, in all the accents of creation, a love-song to its Maker.

All: Blessed be God's name.

Song: The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor:
The love of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn:
the peace of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears:
the joy of God is here to stay
embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent
where hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised or bent:
the grace of God is here to stay
Embracing those who walk his way

Psalm 23:

Leader: You, God are my shepherd: I need nothing more.

Women: *You let me lie down in green pastures, you lead me beside still waters:
There you revive my spirit.*

Men: You guide me in the right paths for you are true to your name.

Women: *Were I to walk through the darkest valley I should not be afraid.*

Men: for you are at my side, your staff and crook support me.

Women: *You spread a table before me in clear view of my enemies.*

Men: you anoint my head with oil, my cup is overflowing.

All: **Unfailing goodness and kindness will follow ne all my days.**

My home shall be in God's house as long as my life shall last.

Prayer:

Leader: Come, brother Jesus, be our guest, stay with us for the day is ending.

Bring to this place your poverty,

All: for then we shall be rich.

Leader: Bring to this place your pain,

All: that in sharing it, we may also share your joy.

Leader: Bring to this place your understanding of us,

All: that we may be freed to learn more of you.

Leader: Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,

All: that we and all things may be made new.

Leader: With friend and stranger, with the well known and unknown ones

be among us tonight,

All: for the doors of this house are open,

and the doors of our hearts are ajar.

Scripture:

Reader: 1 In the world many things happen at night: people travel, people meet, people have secret conversations, people lie awake restless, people sleep through exhaustion.

And this has always been so; holy books bear witness to it. So let us hear a night story from the Bible.

Matthew 15: 22-33 Jesus walks on the water.

Reading: *Trusting from 'The very Life of Life' by Tom Gordon*

Discussion: Thoughts about Trust.

Song: **Be still and know that I am God,**
 Be still and know that I am God,
 Be still and know that I am God.
I am the Lord that healeth thee x 3
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust x 3

Night Prayer:

Leader: What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night?
 Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.
 Let us pray
 You never sleep, God. You are always awake, always watching,
 always willing the world and its people to turn in the right direction.
 So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep because of illness,
 Or worry,
 Or fear,
 Or for reasons they cannot understand.

PAUSE

God be near them,

All: God be near them.

Leader: And tonight, will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently for a birth
 Or death,
 For a visit,
 or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

PAUSE

God be near them

All: God be near them.

Leader: And tonight, will you be close to the ones who wonder,
 who look for inspiration,
 who long to be with the one or the ones they love.
 who hope to recognise the right time when they can say 'I'm sorry,'
 Or 'I love you,'
 Or even 'enough is enough.'

PAUSE

God be near them

All: God be near them

Leader: And God listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrow,
 discoveries or questions we will take with us into the night.

PAUSE

God be near us

All: God be near us.

Into your hands we commit ourselves –

Our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –

For all things come from you and are best kept in your care.

Amen

Evening Song:

**Now that evening falls,
gently fades the light:
moon replaces sun
and day takes leave of night.**

**Gratitude we raise
for the day that's done
and for what, tomorrow,
waits to be begun.**

**Gladly we commit
to God's gracious care
those we love and long for,
those whose lives we share.**

**Glory be to God,
glory to God's Son,
glory to the Spirit
ever three in one.**

Closing responses:

Leader: I lie down with God

All: And God lies down with me

Leader: I lie down with Christ

All: And Christ lies down with me.

Leader: I lie down with the spirit,

All: And the Spirit lies down with me.

Leader: God and Christ and the Spirit –

All: All three

With me.

A few moments of quiet while music is played

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PERSHORE ABBEY IONA SERVICE IS NOW RUNNING ON THE 4TH SUNDAY IN THE MONTH AT 5PM.

Next service is at 5pm on Sunday 29th August