

*Liturgy for Reflections and Prayers, Trinity 8*

*Service taken from Morning Worship from the Iona Community*

In the beginning,  
before time, before people, before the world began,  
**God was.**

Here and now,  
among us, beside us,  
clearer than air, closer than breathing,  
**God is.**

In all that is to come, when we have turned to dust and  
human knowledge has been completed,  
**God will be.**

Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it,  
not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ, by the  
power of the Holy Spirit,  
**God was, God is, God will be.**

*Let us pray.*

Holy and gracious God, we live in a world of wonder, conceived by your  
divine imagination.

The universe is your creation born out of love and generosity.

Hallowed be your name.

**Hallowed be Your name.**

Through centuries of thought and searching,  
through law and wisdom, insight and experience, your will and purpose were  
gradually glimpsed until, in Jesus, all that was hidden was revealed, and you  
let earth be touched by heaven.

Hallowed be your name.

**Hallowed be Your name.**

In the beauty of the earth,  
in the silence of our hearts,  
in the community of your church,  
in all works of grace and kindness,  
in forgiving from the heart  
and in worship from the soul,  
your Spirit confirms the truth by which we live.

Hallowed be your name.

**Hallowed be Your name.**

If, knowing this,  
we have failed to love you, our Maker, been hesitant to follow your Son, and  
suspected the power of your Spirit,  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

If we have desired comfort more  
than devotion,  
if we have satisfied our wants more than we have served your will, if we have  
worshipped a lesser god and gone for an easier gospel,  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

If, in the face of your openness,  
we have jealously guarded our wealth,  
limited our company to those like us,  
restricted our conversation  
to matters of no consequence,  
and in all this compromised our integrity  
and lost faith in our faith,  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy**

Forgive us, O God,  
but not to ease our consciences  
until we feel penitent again.  
Forgive us, so that we may have no defence against your will; and then  
make us friends of your purpose and worthy companions of Jesus, in whose  
name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### *Psalm 145*

- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
<sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
<sup>17</sup> The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
<sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

### **Reading *Isaiah 55***

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

### ***Reflection***

Let us pray.

*Collect for the day*

*Renew the life of the earth .....*

Because you, God, love the world, because in Christ you walked it, we dare to pray:

God, send your spirit;

**Renew the life of the earth.**

To connect the words of ancient scripture to the life of the world today; to let the urgent summons of Jesus surpass our reticence to respond,

God, send your spirit:

**Renew the life of the earth.**

To awaken the minds of those in power to the realities of those they govern; to confront the arrogance of the privileged with the vulnerability of the poor,

God, send your spirit;

**Renew the life of the earth.**

To engage the fragile state of the planet with those who carelessly abuse it; to let the pain of those who are hurting awaken the caring potential in the healthy, God, send your spirit;

**Renew the life of the earth.**

To eradicate the distance between our convictions and commitments, our potentials and our performance, our prayers and our politics, our faith and our discipleship,

God, send your spirit;

**Renew the life of the earth.**

Convince us, gracious God, that matter matters and that all is up for redemption.

And since in Jesus

you destined all to be changed and made new, enable us to be agents of your purpose.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

*The Blessing*