

## Liturgy for Reflection and Prayers, 25 April 2021 (Easter 4)

*(Adapted from Iona Community Morning Worship)*

### *Opening responses*

The world belongs to God,  
**The earth and all its people.**  
How good it is, how wonderful,  
**To live together in unity.**  
Love and faith come together,  
**Justice and peace join hands.**  
If Christ's disciples keep silent  
**These stones would shout aloud.**  
Open our lips, O God,  
**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

### *Confession*

Holy God, Maker of all  
**Have mercy on us.**  
Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor  
**Have mercy on us.**  
Holy Spirit, Breath of life  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Before God, with the people of God,  
I confess to my brokenness:  
to the ways I wound my life,  
the lives of others,  
and the life of the world.  
**May god forgive you, Christ renew you,  
And the spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before god, with the people of god,  
We confess to our brokenness:  
To the ways we wound our lives,  
The lives of others,  
And the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.  
Amen.

*Prayer for God's help*

Move among us, O God; give us life:

**Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us:

**Renew us in mind and in spirit.**

Give us again the joy of your help:

**With your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

And now, we hear the prayer that Jesus taught us:

*(sung)*

**Our father in heaven,**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven,**

**Give us today our daily bread,**

**Forgive us our sins**

**As we forgive those who sin against us,**

**Save us in the time of trial**

**And deliver us from evil,**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**And the glory are yours,**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

*Affirmation*

With the whole church

**We affirm**

**That we are made in god's image,**

**Befriended by Christ, empowered by the spirit.**

With people everywhere

**We affirm**

**God's goodness at the heart of humanity,**

**Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation

**We celebrate**

**The miracle and wonder of life;**

**The unfolding purposes of god,**

**Forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

*Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

**<sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

**<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.**

*Reading Acts 4, 5 - 12*

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

*Reflection*

### *Collect*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### *Intercessions, concluding with:*

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.  
We ask it for your own name's sake.

**Amen**

### *Closing responses*

This is the day that God has made;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

We will not offer to God

**Offerings that cost us nothing.**

Go in peace to love and to serve;

**We will seek peace and pursue it.**

In the name of the Trinity of Love,

**God in community, holy and one.**

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**

### *The Blessing*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*

© The Iona Community  
from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*,  
published by Wild Goose Publications,  
Iona Community