

IONA EVENING LITURGY No.7

Chant: **Alleluia**

Opening Responses

1st Reader: I will light a light
in the name of the Maker
who lit the world
and breathed the breath of life for me.

2nd Reader: I will light a light
in the name of the Son
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

3rd Reader: I will light a light
in the name of the Spirit
who encompasses the world
and blesses my soul with yearning.

**ALL: WE WILL LIGHT THREE LIGHTS
FOR THE TRINITY OF LOVE:
GOD ABOVE US;
GOD BESIDE US;
GOD BENEATH US:
THE BEGINNING,
THE END,
THE EVERLASTING ONE.**

Song: Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
vastly different though we are;
race and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait
for the right time in which to discover
who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do.

ALL: SO, THANK YOU ... FOR THE WAITING TIME.

Leader: You keep us looking.
You, the God of all space,
want us to look in the right and wrong places
for signs of hope,
for people who are hopeless,
for visions of a better world which will appear
among the disappointments of the world we know.

ALL: SO, THANK YOU ... FOR THE LOOKING TIME.

Leader: You keep us loving.
You, the God whose name is love,
want us to be like you -
to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable;
to love without jealousy or design or threat;
and, most difficult of all,
to love ourselves.

ALL: SO, THANK YOU ... FOR THE LOVING TIME.

Leader: And in all this,
you keep us.
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,
You keep us.

**ALL: SO, THANK YOU FOR THE KEEPING TIME,
AND FOR NOW,
AND FOR EVER.
AMEN.**

Chant **O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer,
O Lord hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.**

Psalm 4 (said responsively)

**ALL: ANSWER ME WHEN I PRAY,
O GOD, MY DEFENDER!
WHEN I WAS IN TROUBLE, YOU HELPED ME.
BE KIND TO ME NOW AND HEAR MY PRAYER.**

A: How long will you people insult me?
How long will you love what is worthless
and go after what is false?

B: Remember that the Lord has chosen
the righteous for his own,
and he hears me when I call to him.

A: Tremble with fear and stop sinning;
think deeply about this,
when you lie in silence on your beds.

B: Offer the right sacrifices to the Lord,
and put your trust in him.

A: There are many who pray:
"Give us more blessings, O Lord.
Look on us with kindness!"

B: But the joy that you have given me
is more than they will ever have
with all their corn and wine.

**ALL: WHEN I LIE DOWN, I GO TO SLEEP IN PEACE;
YOU ALONE, O LORD, KEEP ME PERFECTLY SAFE.**

Song: 1. **Whoever lives beside the Lord,
sheltering in the Almighty's shade,
shall say, 'My God, in you I trust,
my safety, my defender.'**

2. From unseen danger and disease
God will keep you safe and sure;
beneath his wings a place you'll find,
a refuge from all danger.
3. You will not dread what darkness brings -
hidden danger, deadly plague;
nor will you fear in daylight hours,
the evil that surrounds you.
4. A thousand may die at your side,
thousands more fall close at hand;
but with God's truth for strength and shield,
no threat will ever touch you.
5. God says, 'I'll save from every harm
those who know and love my name.
In trouble I will honour them,
and show them my salvation.'

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Prayer

Leader: Let us pray for light ...
where the dark is doubly dark:
where wrong dresses up as right
and even saints are unsure what to believe;
where life has gone into a tunnel
and all that is known are confusing noises
and stumbling blocks in the blackness;
where faith, hope and love are in ashes,
needing an angel to blow on them.
Let us pray for light:

SILENCE

Leader: Let us pray for a word from the Lord ...
where human words can no longer be trusted:
where voices from the past echo loudly, saying
'you are not one of us' or 'keep quiet'
or 'I do not need you any more';

where the voice of the church has been sweet and sour
water from the same rock, saying
'welcome' and 'watch it';
where the voice of God has been silent
or submerged beneath jargon
let us pray for a word from the Lord:

Leader: And let us pray
that we may see the way to the cross
and the way beyond it.

SILENCE

Help us, Lord,
to follow where you walk,
to stop where you stumble,
to grieve where you die,
to dance where you rise again,
knowing that this is the only way.
There is no other way.

ALL: AMEN.

The Word of God

Reader: O God of the weak,
O God of the lowly,
O God of the righteous,
O shield of your people,

**ALL: CALL NOW UPON US
IN THE VOICE OF GLORY,
WITH THE MOUTH OF MERCY
THROUGH THE WORD OF YOUR SON.**

Reading

Song

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Like a mother, you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father, you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be,
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.

Music: David Dell Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Prayer

Leader: O God of all gods,
grant us your light this night,
your grace as we sleep,
your joy in the morning
and let us be made pure in the well of your health.

**ALL: LIFT FROM US ANY ANGUISH,
 TAKE FROM US EMPTY PRIDE,
 AND LIGHTEN OUR SOULS
 IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of Mary,
Holy Spirit, Light of Life,
shield and sustain us
and all our dear ones,
this night and every night.

ALL: AMEN.

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.

Blessing