



ASSOCIATES SERVICE OF RECOMMITMENT Columba Day 2020

OPENING RESPONSES

Leader: The world belongs to God
Response: The earth and all its people
Leader: How good and how lovely it is
Response: To live together in unity
Leader: Love and faith come together
Response: Justice and peace join hands
Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent
Response: These stones will shout aloud

SONG:**Uyai Mose - Come all you people**

Words and Music: Alexander Gondo Arr. John L. Bell

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PRAYER OF APPROACH

From the fragmented world of our everyday lives

We gather together in search of wholeness.

By many cares and preoccupations

by diverse and separate aims

are we separated from one another

and divided within ourselves.

Yet we know that no branch is utterly severed

from the Tree of Life that sustains us all.

From Women Included p38, the St Hilda Community SPCK 1993

READINGS**PSALM 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills -

from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

from this time on and for evermore.

LOCKDOWN PSALM – Martin Wroe

I lift up my eyes from this lockdown
Outside, I cover my face
My friends become danger
I become threat, I step aside,
Hold my breath as you pass.

I lift up my eyes,
They are wet from my tears.
My days slip through these dried out fingers
From where will my help come
To carry me, or hold me,
Or just look toward me
With Faith, Hope and Love?
Is that too much to ask?
Is that a prayer?

The dawn, the dusk
How they carry us.

My help comes inside PPE,
From those who care and those who heal,
And a friend who calls, across the way,
Can you believe this? How's your day?

My help comes from those who sit and listen
When I no longer make sense
Who wash me clean, and break a broken blessing over me
Who walk beside us when we die,
They neither slumber nor sleep
How they carry us.

My help comes with those who love me
I hold them tenderly, in all this silence,
The being held, the holding, this sad joy
That cradles all the sorrow, all the loss
All this love in all this life
How this carries us

I hold them all, they hold me
Wherever I go, they go with me
At my going out and my coming in,
Even when I cannot catch another breath
Still, they breathe my life,
That I may breathe easy again.

I lift up my eyes and see
That Love will keep our lives,
From this time forth, for evermore.

REFLECTION

Leader: For the word of God in scripture
 For the word of God among us
 For the word of God within us

Response: Thanks be to God

PRAYERS

With the eye of a weaver
you have chosen us such
different threads to
be gathered into unity
that the world may believe.

So may we not serve your purpose
unless we are open to each other;

Not care for each other
unless we reflect your love;

Not dare to love like you,
Unless we are glad to accept
the cost and joy of discipleship,

as friends and followers of Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

AMEN

Spirit of love, under your strong and gentle wings
there is refuge for all who are exploited, harassed,
patronised, demeaned and abused.

Shield, nurture and restore us to wholeness and integrity,
in our personal and corporate lives.

In your shelter, let us create a safe place to be ourselves,
to explore new possibilities,
to share friendship and to sustain each other
in the struggle for liberation.

©Kathy Galloway from The Pattern of Our Days

Leader: God, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

*A time for reflective prayer and intercession during which we hear a Kyrie
sung in Urdu*

Leader: God, in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Leader: We say together the prayer of the Iona Community

**Response: O God, who gave to your servant Columba
the gifts of courage, faith and cheerfulness,
and sent people out from Iona
to carry the word of your gospel to every creature,
grant, we pray, a like spirit to your church,
even at this present time.**

**Further in all things the purpose of our Community,
that hidden things may be revealed to us,
and new ways found to touch the lives of all.**

**May we preserve with each other
sincere charity and peace,
and if it be your holy will,
grant that a place of your abiding be continued**

**still to be a sanctuary and a light.
Through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

SONG

Christ's is the world in which we move

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COMMITMENT

On this, St Columba's Day, we commit ourselves as Associate Members of the Iona Community.

The Iona Community's Charter says:

"We long for a just and peaceful world in which all life can flourish."

"Inspired by our faith and loving concern for the world and its people, we pursue justice and peace in and through community."

If you brought an image, a word, an object or something else that represents your hopes as an Associate Member of the Iona Community, now is the time to put it nearby, light it, or hold it close to you ...

Associates, please join in as we make our commitment, followed by an affirmation. With the time delays on zoom, we won't all be together but no-one will mind that. We say the words in bold.

Leader: We say together ...

ALL: **In the presence of our sisters and brothers, near and far,
and in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
we commit ourselves to the purpose and the prayer life of the
Iona Community.**

**We, being many, are one in Christ.
We will celebrate the wholeness of our life together.
Where it is fractured, we will work for reconciliation.
Where it is diminished, we will strive for its fullness.
So God help us now and always.**

Leader: Walk with us today O God

Response: **And keep us on your way**

AFFIRMATION

V1: We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

V2: We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

V3: We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and into the streets.

V4: We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;

V5: To choose life
and be used by the spirit
for God's new community of hope.

© Jan Sutch Pickard and Brian Woodcock - 'The Iona Abbey Worship Book

BLESSING

Leader: Living God, bless us
As together we go out
Empowered by our longing,
Strengthened by our solidarity
Humbled by our need

To love and serve the world.

Amen

©Kathy Galloway - from 'To Love and Serve the World'

CLOSING RESPONSES

Leader: This is the day that God has made;

Response: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: We will not offer to God

Response: offerings that cost us nothing.

Leader: Go in peace to love and to serve;

Response: we will seek peace and pursue it.

Leader: In the name of the Trinity of love;

Response: God in community, holy and one.

SONG: Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho.

Words: Xhosa (South African) from The Lord's Prayer

*Music: "Mayenziwe" trad South African as taught by George Mxadana
transcribed John L. Bell*

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