



iona
community

COMMUNITY WEEK 2024 WORSHIP

INSPIRED BY OUR FAITH,
WE PURSUE JUSTICE AND PEACE
IN AND THROUGH COMMUNITY

Gathering in worship

As we gather in Community in Erfurt, so we will worship together.

We will sing, pray, lament, praise, pause and reflect together. And we will hold stillness: silence in our midst.

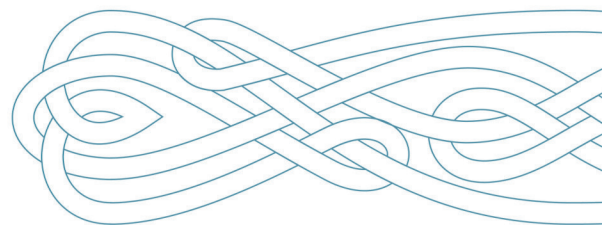
As we gather, let us hold before one another, and in the presence of God, those who are excluded, marginalised or made to feel un-welcome in any way. And let us remember in the face of all rejection that 'God welcomes all.'

Our daily readings and worship will guide our prayers and our actions. For those wishing to dig a little further into themes in scripture of boundaries and belonging, one resource to look at is 'Borders and Belonging: the book of Ruth – a story for our times' by Padraig O Tuama and Glenn Jordan. Alongside our daily worship, you might like to reflect on these daily readings from the book of Ruth: 1v1-17; 1v22 - 2v1-7; 2v19 - 3v5; 3v14 - 4v6; 4v13-22.

Ruth Harvey
Leader, the Iona Community
July 2024"

Changing language

We are very aware that, over time, language changes and there can be times, especially in prayers and songs, when we feel uncomfortable with it. As you sing or pray, feel free to make changes that make sense to you, in a respectful way.



Morning worship

Welcome to this service which is based on the Act of Prayer used daily by members of the Iona Community around the world and in Iona Abbey.

Opening responses

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

Song

Call to prayer

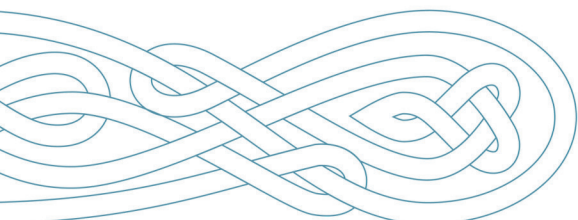
Leader: Move among us God; give us life;
ALL: let your people rejoice in you.
Leader: Give us again the joy of your help;
ALL: with your spirit of freedom sustain us.
Leader: God, make our hearts clean,
ALL: renew us in body, mind and spirit.

Prayers of praise and confession

A short prayer of praise will be offered, followed by:

Leader: Trusting in God's forgiveness,
let us in silence confess our failings
and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

Silence



Leader: Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

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

Leader: Amen.

**ALL: Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

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

ALL: Amen.

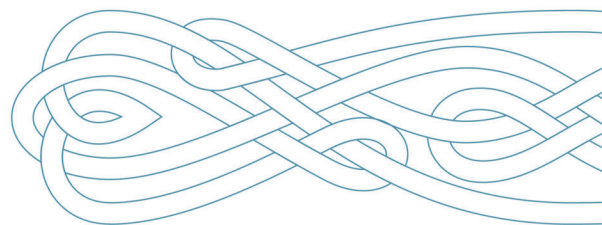
Jesus' prayer

1

Loving God in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kin(g)dom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and 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 kin(g)dom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

2

Creator and Kin, as near as breath,
and yet far beyond our understanding,
holy is your name.
Your new reality come,
your justice be done, here and now.
May we feed each other, as you feed us.
You hold us in grace when we don't 'get it'.
May we hold others in grace too.
May we resist complacency,
and strive for justice and peace,
For all people, and all times. Amen



Jesus' prayer

3

God in heaven,
your name is to be honoured.
May your new community of hope
be realised on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today the essentials of life.
Release us from our wrongdoing
as we also release those who wrong us.
Do not test us beyond our enduring;
save us from all that is evil.
For you embrace justice, love and peace,
now and to the end of time. Amen

4

Source of all life, our Companion in Heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your community come,
your vision be realised on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today all that sustains us,
free us from the harm we do
and heal us from the harm done to us.
Shield and guide us in the times of trouble
and deliver us from evil.
For the community, the vision
and the joy are yours now and for ever. Amen

The affirmation

Leader: With the whole church
ALL: we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.

Leader: With people everywhere
ALL: we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more
deeply than all that is wrong.

Leader: With all creation
ALL: we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God,
for ever at work in ourselves and the world.

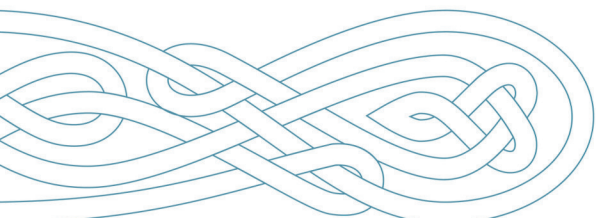
Readings from scripture or other sources of nourishment

A Psalm from the songsheet, read together.

A second reading.

Response

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
and other wellsprings of nourishment,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us
ALL: thanks be to God.



Song

For the Leaving Service we move now to page 8.

Prayers of, and for, the Iona Community

A short prayer of gratitude and concern will be offered

Leader: God in your mercy
ALL: receive our prayer.

Leader: Today we pray for the following places...

Leader: God in your mercy
ALL: receive our prayer.

Leader: With the Iona Community we pray for...

Leader: **God in your mercy**
ALL: receive our prayer.

Leader: On the xx day of xx, we pray for these
Iona Community Members belonging to the
Family Group of...

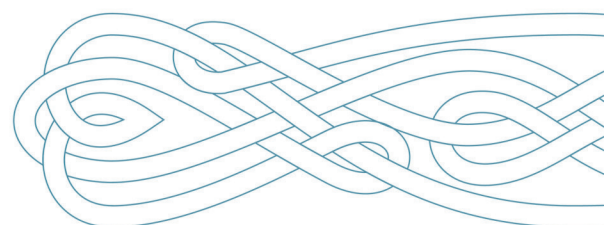
Names are read aloud

Leader: And for these Associate Members in (region)

Names are read aloud

Leader: Journey with them today, O God

ALL: and keep us on your way.



Prayer for the Day

Monday

Leader: God, in whose heart is love and justice,
show us this day whom we must love
and what we should challenge or change
in order that your will for the earth might be done.

**ALL: Increase our hope, dispel our apathy;
inspire our imagination,
and deepen our commitment,
until we become the signs of your kingdom
for which we and others pray. Amen**

Tuesday

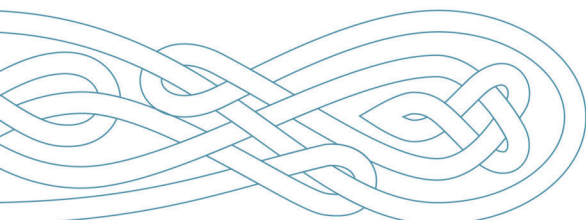
Leader: O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
you at the last, through wood and nails,
crafted our whole salvation.

**ALL: Wield well your tools
in the workshop of your world,
so that we who come rough-hewn to
your bench may here be fashioned
to a truer beauty of your hand. Amen**

Wednesday

Leader: O God, you gave to your servant Columba
gifts of courage, faith and cheerfulness,
and sent out your servants from Iona
to carry 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 this community,
that hidden things may be revealed to us
and new ways found to touch the hearts of all.

**ALL: May we preserve with each other
sincere charity and peace;
and, if it be your holy will,
grant that this place of your abiding
continue still to be a sanctuary and a light. Amen**



Thursday

Leader: Jesus, you have set before us a great hope
that your kingdom will come on earth,
and have taught us to pray for its coming.

ALL:
**Make us ready to celebrate
the signs of its dawning,
and to pray and work for the perfect day
when your will shall be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen**

Friday

Leader: O Christ, you are within each of us.
It is not just the interior of these walls,
it is our own inner being you have renewed.
We are your temple not made with human hands;
we are your body.

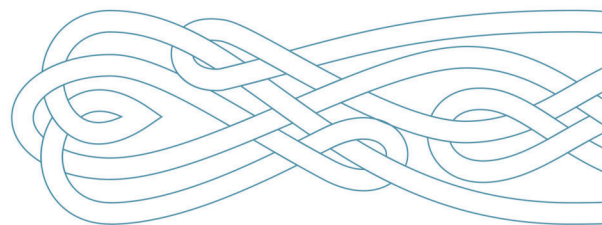
ALL:
**If every wall should crumble,
and every church decay,
we are your habitation.**

Leader: Nearer are you than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out with compassion on the world.

ALL:
**So we bless you for this place,
for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us,
your presence among us.**

Leader: Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,
to where nations clash at the crossroads of the world.

ALL:
**So shall this building continue to be justified;
and your people find cause
to bless your name. Amen**



Saturday

Leader: Ever-present God, set your blessing on us
as we begin this day together.
Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live;
confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn.

ALL: We ask not for what we want
but for what you know we need,
as we offer this day and ourselves
for you and to you. Amen

Closing responses

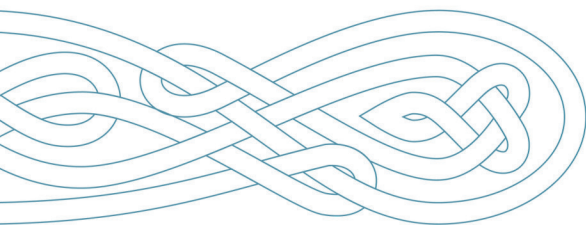
Sometimes these will be sung

Leader: In work, rest and worship
ALL: God is with us.

Leader: Gathered and scattered
ALL: God is with us

Leader: Now and always
ALL: God is with us

We remain standing at the end of the service, leaving to continue our worship in our work and all we do today.



LEAVING SERVICE

This part of the service follows the second song

Prayers of gratitude and concern

Leader: For the roots and purpose of this Community
and for all the communities of which we are a part

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader: For all we have shared together here
and all we can now share with others

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader: For the path that lies before us
and our future in God's hands.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A short prayer of gratitude and concern will be offered, followed by prayers of, and for, the Iona Community - all ending with the response

Leader: God in your mercy

ALL: receive our prayer

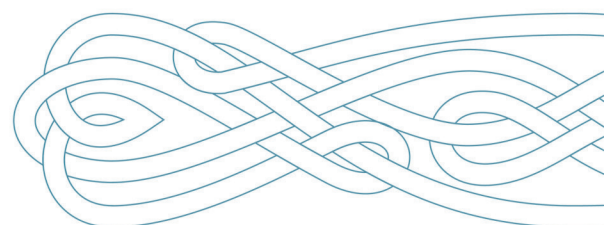
Prayers for Members and Associate Members

Names are read aloud

Leader: Journey with them today, O God

ALL: and keep us on your way

Prayer for the day



Parting blessing

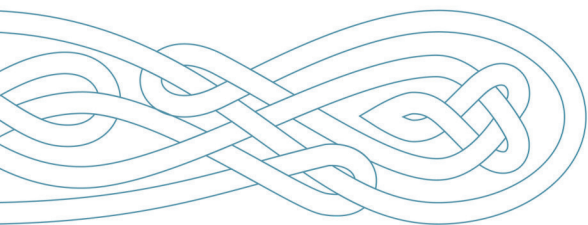
Those staying: God guide your feet and minds today;
may you travel safely
and find companions on the way.

Those leaving: God be in your hands and hearts today
when you wave goodbye
and prepare to welcome others.

Those staying: God be in your lives as you travel on
and at your homecoming.

Those leaving: God be with you always,
constant companion,
guardian, friend and guide.

ALL: **May God's blessing be ours
on our pilgrim way;
all the nights and days
of our journey home**



Evening worship: Saturday 3rd August

Service of Welcome

The people gather

Welcome, introduction and conversation

Song: Take this moment time and space

Leader: Gathered together –
the familiar and the unknown,
those who have travelled far and
those for whom this place is home,

ALL: come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Gathered together –
where saints and scholars, bread-bakers and farm-labourers worshipped,
where monks and reformers preached,
where pilgrims and puzzled folk have prayed,
where God has listened,

ALL: come, Holy Spirit.

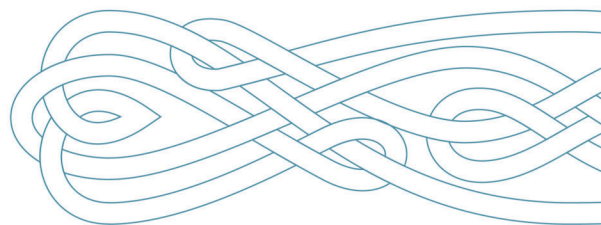
Leader: Gathered together –
not knowing what we have in common,
not sure, perhaps, why we are here,
unable to read God's heart,

ALL: come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: To open doors, dispel fears,
establish friendships,
reveal what is in us,
and bring us closer to Christ,

**ALL: come, Holy Spirit.
Meet us here.**

Song: God welcomes all



Prayer

Leader: You, God, have brought us to this place
where earth and heaven embrace,
the past interweaves with the future,
different nations and languages mingle,
and what we want is replaced by what we need.

ALL: God, you are good to us.

Leader: And if we feel strange
because this place and those around us are unfamiliar;
and if we feel tired
because we have travelled far;
and if we feel uncertain
because we do not know what is before us,
still let us gladly say:

ALL: God, you are good to us.

Leader: Bless those we have left behind,
reveal your wisdom through those we meet,
rest your peace on what weighs heavily on our hearts;
and plant your purpose in what we deeply desire,
so that when we leave we can say with truer conviction,

**ALL: God you are good to us.
Amen**

The lighting of lights

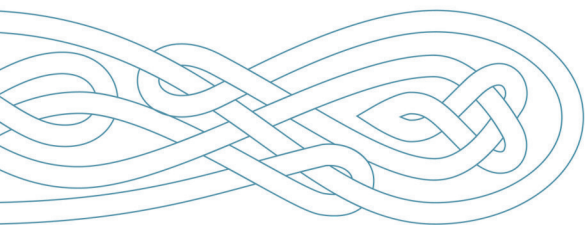
Leader: We light a light in the name of the Maker,
who shaped the world
and laid his hand on us.

**ALL: Gloria, gloria, gloria,
in excelsis Deo.**

We sing the Gloria repeatedly and after each verse as a candle is lit

Leader: We light a light in the name of the Son
who lit the world
and breathed the breath of life for us.

ALL: Iona Gloria.



Leader: We light a light in the name of the Spirit
who encompasses the world
and blesses our hearts with yearning
ALL: Iona Gloria.

**ALL: We light three lights
for the Trinity of love,
God above us,
God beside us,
God within us,
the beginning,
the end,
the everlasting one.**

Scripture readings

Silence

Prayer

Leader: Into your care, O God,
we place those whom we love,
those for whom we worry,
those from whom, in time or place or affection, we are distant.

Pause

Leader: Into your care, O God,
we place what grieves us,
and what inspires us and fills us with hope.

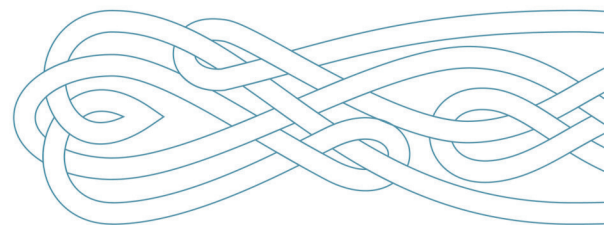
Pause

Leader: Into your care, O God, we give ourselves.

Pause

Leader: God bless to us our bodies
**ALL: God bless to us our souls,
God bless to us our lives,
God bless to us our belief.**

Leader: Let us share the prayer that Jesus taught us in our own language or preferred version.



Leader: God in heaven,
your name is to be honoured.
May your new community of hope
be realized on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the essentials of life.
Release us from our wrongdoing
as we also release those who wrong us.
Do not test us beyond our enduring:
save us from all that is evil.
For you embrace justice, love and peace,
now and to the end of time, Amen.

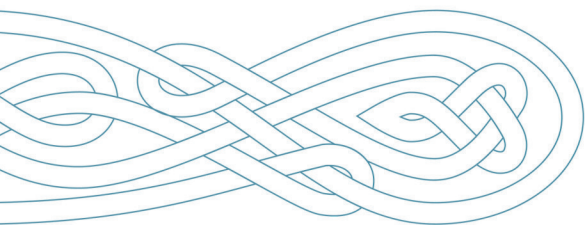
Song: Amen, Alleluia

Closing response

Leader: May the blessing of light be upon us:
ALL: light without and light within.

Leader: May the moon, sun and stars shine on us and warm every heart
**ALL: till it glows like a great fire
so that strangers and friends
may come in and find welcome.**

Leader: May light shine out from our eyes like a candle set in a window.
**ALL: And may God bless us
with goodness and lovingkindness.
Amen.**



Evening worship: Sunday 4th August

Service of Quiet

We come together not so much to share words as to share silence. We do this because God is as present in silence as in speech. The silence will last for around twenty minutes.

This will be followed by a brief prayer for others and for members and associates of the Iona Community who are remembered on this day of the month. After the service concludes, people may leave quietly or stay in the Abbey church, which will remain lit for a short while.

Opening prayer

Leader: Jesus,
you commanded waves to be still
and calmed a stormy sea.
Quieten now our restless hearts
that they may find rest in you.

We recognise the noise inside us
and the noises around us.
We acknowledge them,
but seek here to know your presence
in the midst of all that might distract us.

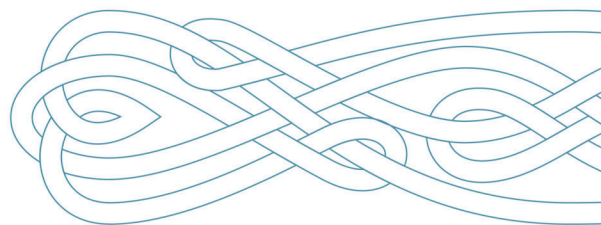
So, now, we surrender for these moments our speech,
knowing that beneath the silence is a deeper Word,
and that even when we say nothing,
you are still listening.

Prayer

Leader: Ever listening,
ever watchful,
ever loving God,
ALL: **we rest in you.**

**Ever listening,
ever watchful,
ever loving God,
we rest in you.**

Silence



Prayers for others

Leader: Holy God,
as you have heard every silent prayer
and wordless petition,
hear now these prayers for others.

Any prayers the leader may offer will end with the following response:

Leader: God in your mercy,
ALL: hear our prayer.

Then follows a prayer for members of the Iona Community and their families and associate members, as remembered on specific days of the month.

This is followed by:

Leader: Walk with them today, O God
ALL: and keep us on your way

Words of sending

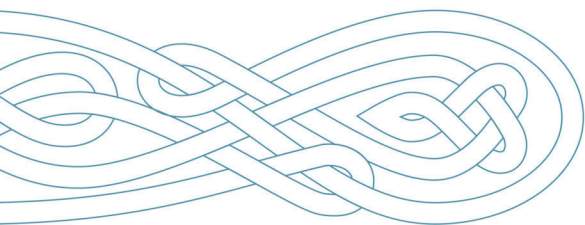
Leader: May you be out of your depth –
as the deeps of the night sky
contain but cannot explain God's mystery.

May you be in the dark –
as the moon is eclipsed, but held safe,
with all that is, in the palm of God's hand.

May you be lost for words –
as the Word is spoken
in the silence of the night,
in the beauty of God's creation.

The loving blessing of God, Creator, Healer,
and Holy Spirit,
be in us and around us tonight, tomorrow,
and all our nights and days.

ALL: Amen



Evening worship: Monday 5th August

Service of Peace, Justice & Integrity of Creation

This evening, we draw on the that part of the Iona Community's Rule which is a commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

We celebrate that God will for the world peace with justice, known in the Middle East as 'Shalom' or 'Salaam'. This is not an abstraction or something only possible in another world or eternity, but a real hope for this place and time. This justice is proclaimed by the Law and the Prophets and is embodied in Jesus. It flows from the simple fact that God loves the world. When what God loves is threatened, those who love God cannot remain neutral.

Welcome, introduction and conversation

Opening Responses

Leader: O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
ALL: **we praise you!**

Leader: You made the earth and all that lives here,
ALL: **we praise you!**

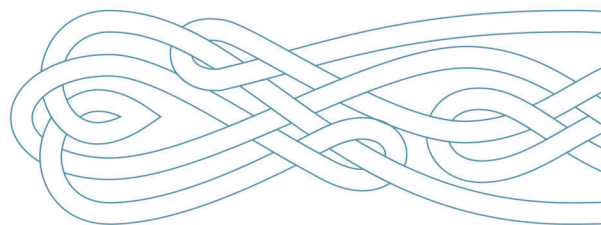
Leader: You give breath to all creatures
and your Spirit to your people,
ALL: **we praise you and thank you, O God!**

Leader: That the eyes of the blinded be opened,
the poor hear the good news,
the captives be brought out of darkness,
the wealth of the world serve the good of all,
ALL: **your kingdom come, O God,
your will be done!**

Leader: Then let us sing God a new song.
ALL: **With joy let us honour our Maker.**

Song: Let's sing to the Lord

Prayer



Leader: Let us pray.
Over time, over space, over matter, over thought,
you are our God, in all and through all.

The noises of war are loud in your ears,
as is the cry of a newborn child.
You share the excitement of those pioneering research
as well as the last breaths of those nearing death.

And in Christ, all the pain and potential in the world
are held together in the hope of healing.

Be present to us here, gracious God,
and let your Spirit open us to glimpse that fairer world
which you intend for us and for all people.

ALL: Amen

Readings

Response

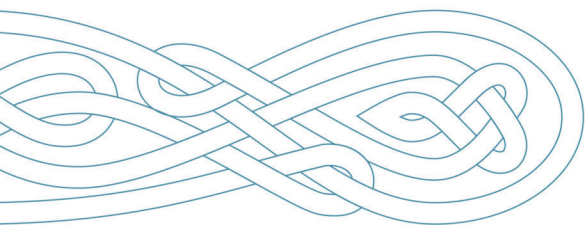
*We turn together to face the four corners of the compass.
To start, and at each turn, we sing*

Chant

Seek, seek out the poor.
Face the oppressor, then shake!
Shake our foundations and turn,
turn us from sin.

Speak, speak for the poor.
Justice and hopefulness. Breathe,
breathe in your holiness, changed,
changed from within.

Words & music by Patricia Livingstone, 2024



Prayer

Leader: Creator of this world and all its people,
we are glad that all things are held in your hands.
You have not left us alone.

And we celebrate the work of your Spirit
encouraging people the world over
to work for justice and peace,
to speak for the voiceless
and always to anticipate
that the best is yet to come.

ALL: Blessed be your name.

Leader: If, however,
we have driven a wedge between piety
and peace-making,
erected a wall between prayer and politics
associated a purposes of heaven
with only the gentler things of earth –
God of justice

ALL: show yourself.

Leader: If we have offered to false gods
the devotion you alone deserve,
if we have dismissed the Gospel
as irrelevant to the world –
God of justice,

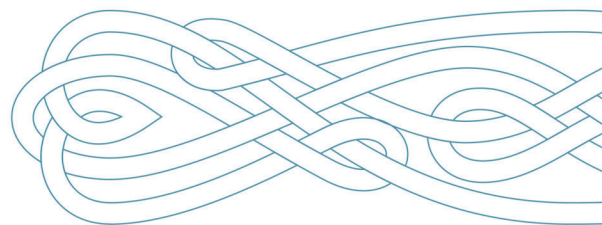
ALL: show yourself.

Leader: If we have dumbed down you Word
and domesticated your Spirit
because we wanted an easier faith
and a tamer dove –
God of justice,

ALL: show yourself.

Leader: Wherever in our nations
the poor are endangered,
the sick are neglected,
prisoners are refused redemption,
and strangers among us are suspected –
God of justice,

ALL: show yourself.



Leader: Wherever in our world,
the lust for profit
undermines the longing for peace;
or the greed for power
overrides the need for fairness –

ALL: God of justice,
show yourself.

Leader: In the prison visitor
and the mediator,
in vigils for peace
and protests to protect the earth;
to all who fear for the future of children,
to those who long for a different day –
God of justice

ALL: **show yourself.**

Leader: God, we do not pray for easy lives,
we pray to be stronger people.
We do not pray for tasks equal to our powers,
but for powers equal to our tasks.

ALL: **We stand together for life
in the midst of death.**

Leader: We pray in Jesus' name
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Amen**

Song: Canticale of the Turning

Blessing

Leader: May God our maker bless us,
and wrap us round
in love and tenderness.

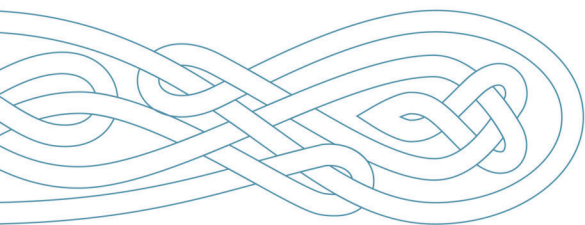
May Jesus our brother bless us,
and ask us the questions
that lead us to do justice.

May the Holy Spirit bless us,
and fill our lives with her courage and wisdom.

May we live bravely
in the love of the Trinity,

ALL: all our nights and days. **Amen**

Song: Murassala nina kulumurassala



Evening worship: Tuesday 6th August

Service of Prayers for Healing

Throughout this Service, we will read the Leaders text in Dutch; the responses will be in English, our common language. The responses are in bold.

We komen samen in uw nabijheid, God,
in onze nood,
en de nood van de wereld nemen we met ons
mee.

**We come to you, for you come to us in
Jesus,
and you know by experience what human
life is like.**

We komen met ons geloof en met onze
twijfels,
we komen met onze hoop en onze vrees.

**We come as we are, because you have
invited us;
and you have promised never to turn us
away.**

We gather in your presence, God,
in our need,
and bringing with us the needs of the world.

**We komen bij U, want u komt in Jezus bij
ons,
en U weet uit ervaring wat het is, te leven als
mens.**

We come with our faith and with our doubts;
welcome with our hopes and with our fears.

**We komen zoals we zijn, omdat U ons
uitnodigde,
omdat U beloofde ons nooit de rug toe te
keren.**

Song: Take this moment, sign and space (verse 3 in Dutch)

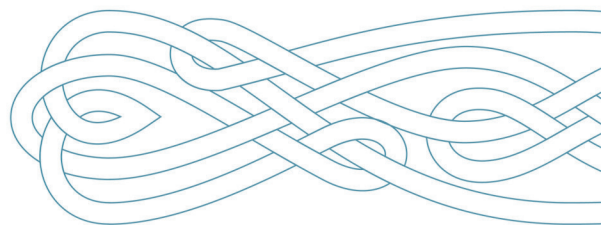
**Neem de zwaarte van mijn hart,
neem mijn diepe spijt,
en raak met uw eenheid aan
wat mijn aandacht splijt.**

Take the tiredness of my days,
take my past regret,
letting your forgiveness touch
all I can't forget.

Prayer

Liefdevolle God,
U brengt ons hier samen.
Zovelen gingen ons al voor,
zoekend naar heelheid, naar kracht, naar liefde.
U kent ons, God, U begrijpt wie we zijn,
U weet wat ons bezighoudt of in de war brengt,
wat ons laat glimlachen en wat ons verdrietig
maakt.

Loving God,
you gather us here tonight,
here, where many have come before us
seeking your healing, strength and love.
You know us, God:
you understand who we are,
you know what troubles and puzzles us,
what makes us smile and what makes us sad.



U hoort onze vragen, onze gebeden.
U kent de mensen van wie we houden, God,
en de mensen met wie we het moeilijk hebben.
Soms beschadigen we anderen;
soms beschadigen we onszelf.

**So, we bring our own hurt asking for your
healing;
and we bring the hurt we have caused others
asking for forgiveness.**

You listen to our questions and our prayers.
You know the people we love, God, and the
people we struggle with.
Sometimes we hurt others; sometimes we
hurt ourselves.

**Nu brengen we onze beschadigingen bij U,
en we vragen: help ons heel te worden.
We brengen de schade die we anderen
aandeden voor U
en we vragen om vergeving.**

Reading

Listen to these words of Jesus, words that we can trust:

'Don't be afraid.'
'I love you.'
'Your sins are forgiven.'
'I will be with you always.'

'Wees niet bang.'
'Ik houd van jou.'
'Je zonden zijn vergeven.'
'Ik zal altijd bij je zijn.'

Pause

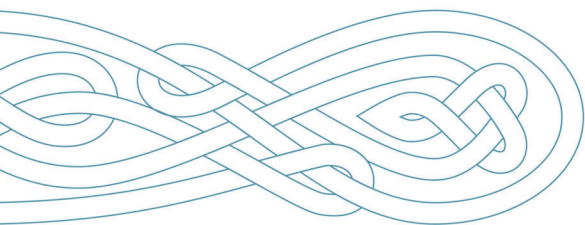
Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living.

Scripture reading and short reflection

Mark 2: 1-12.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the quadriplegic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the quadriplegic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the quadriplegic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the quadriplegic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)



Toen Jezus enkele dagen later terugkwam in Kafarnaüm, werd het bekend dat Hij weer thuis was. Er stroomden zo veel mensen toe dat er zelfs voor de deur geen plaats meer was, en Hij verkondigde hun Gods boodschap. Er werd ook een verlamde naar Hem toe gebracht, die door vier mensen gedragen werd. Omdat ze door de menigte niet bij Jezus konden komen, haalden ze een stuk van het dak weg boven de plaats waar Hij was. En toen ze een opening hadden gemaakt, lieten ze de verlamde op zijn slaapmat naar beneden zakken. Toen Jezus hun geloof zag, zei Hij tegen de verlamde: 'Mijn kind, uw zonden zijn u vergeven.'

Er zaten ook een paar schriftgeleerden tussen de mensen, en die dachten bij zichzelf: 'Hoe durft Hij dat te zeggen? Hij slaat godslasterlijke taal uit! Wie kan zonden vergeven dan God alleen?' Jezus wist meteen wat ze dachten en dus zei Hij: 'Waarom denkt u zo iets? Wat is gemakkelijker, tegen een verlamde zeggen: "Uw zonden zijn u vergeven" of: "Sta op, pak uw mat en loop"? Ik zal u laten zien dat de Mensenzoon volmacht heeft om op aarde zonden te vergeven.' Toen zei Hij tegen de verlamde: 'Ik zeg u, sta op, pak uw mat en ga naar huis.' Meteen stond hij op, pakte zijn mat en ging weg. Alle mensen zagen het; ze stonden versteld en loofden God. 'Zo iets hebben we nog nooit gezien,' zeiden ze.

(Nieuwe Bijbel Vertaling 21)

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Song

*May God draw near when the hour of trouble strikes (Many and great and Church Hymnary)
Verse 3 in Dutch*

**Wij zullen juichen, omdat onze God bevrijdt!
Ik weet nu zeker: God verlost ook ons.
God antwoordt ons uit zijn heilige hemel
en helpt ons vooruit met zijn machtige hand.**

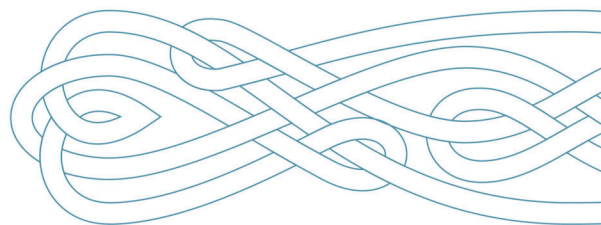
With every blessing our mouths will shout
for joy
to celebrate what the Lord has done;
and ever after, when God shows you favor,
in every triumph we'll trace his love.

Prayers for Others

Song: Take, O take me as I am

**Neem mij aan zoals ik ben
zuiver uit wie ik zal zijn
druk uw zegel op mijn ziel
en leef in mij.**

Take, O take me as I am
Summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me.



Invitation

We pass the Light, saying the prayer for healing in English or Dutch

Dat de Geest van God
die hier nu bij ons is
je raken mag en helen
in lichaam, geest en ziel
en je bevrijden van wat schaadt.
In Jezus' naam. Amen.

Spirit of the Living God
present with us now,
heal you in body, mind and spirit
and free you from all that harms you,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song

What we hope for each other

Zegen - Blessing

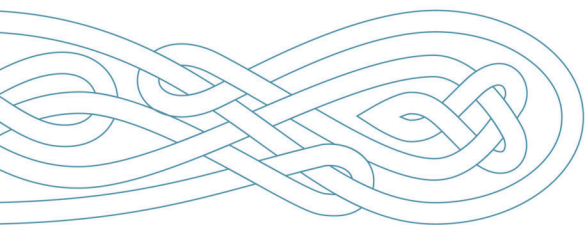
In ons hart en in ons huis
the blessing of God.
In ons komen en in ons gaan
the peace of God.
In ons leven, op onze zoektocht,
the love of God.
Bij het einde, nieuw begin
the arms of God to receive us,
to bring us home. Amen.

In our hearts and in our homes
de zegen van God.
In our coming and in our going
de vrede van God.
In our lives, on our quest,
de liefde van God.
At the end, new beginnings
de armen van God om ons te ontvangen,
thuis te brengen. Amen.

Evening Song: Night has fallen

Some of the solo lines will be sung in Dutch. Repeat in Dutch or English

We leave sharing our hope



Evening worship: Wednesday 7th August

Service of Communion

Throughout this Service, we will read the Leaders text in French; the responses will be in English, our common language. The responses are in bold

For the joy of human company,
shared stories, friendly laughter
and conversations that change us,
nous rendons grâce à Dieu.

Pour la joie de la compagnie humaine,
les histoires partagées, les éclats de rire
amicaux
et les conversations qui nous transforment,
thanks be to God.

For a place that spans the years,
and is home to all who gather,
nous rendons grâce à Dieu.

Pour un lieu qui traverse les âges
et qui est la maison de tous ceux qui se
rassemblent,
thanks be to God.

For the wonder of life,
and the decision of God to come among us.
nous rendons grâce à Dieu.

Pour la merveille de la vie,
et la décision de Dieu de venir parmi nous,
thanks be to God

How can we keep from singing?
Rien ne peut nous empêcher de chanter.

Comment pourrions-nous ne pas chanter
Nothing can keep us from singing.

Song

Sharing stories

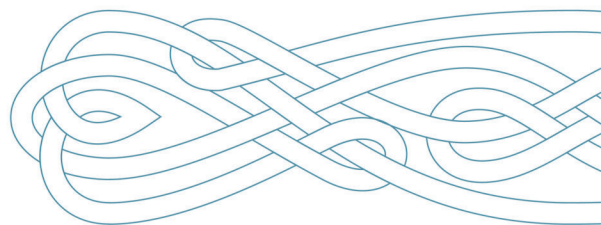
A story from this week, followed by a conversation and a short song to finish.

A story from Matthew ch 13, followed by a conversation and a short song to finish.

A story of the Table, leading into the celebration of Holy Communion.

Song: Mungu ni Mwema

Invitation



Prayer

Prions

Nous t'aimons, Saint Dieu.

Nous t'aimons pour le festin qu'est la vie :
les amitiés et les rires,
l'intimité et la confiance,
les moments de découverte de vérités
profondes,
les potentiels cachés que nous ne savions pas
avoir,
et la beauté –
la beauté sereine et la beauté sauvage,
le monde que tu as façonné
et les mots, les sons, les couleurs
avec lesquels les gens reflètent et explorent la
vie.

**Nous t'aimons, Saint Dieu, car tu ne nous laisse
pas seul.e.s.**

**En Jésus tu es devenu tangible :
les mains l'ont touché,
les larmes l'ont touché,
la générosité l'a touché.**

**Et il nous a touché.e.s.
C'est pourquoi nous sommes ici.
C'est pourquoi à travers le temps et l'éternité
nous chantons parce que nous ne pouvons pas
garder le silence :**

**Holy, holy, holy
God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Dieu, nous avons été rassemblés par toi,
Attrapé.e.s dans ton filet,
Convoqué.e.s à ta table.

Let us pray

We love you, Holy God.

We love you for the feast that is life:
friendship and laughter,
intimacy and trust,
moments of discovering deep truths,
hidden potentials we did not know we had,
and beauty -
the serene and rugged beauty.
the world you have crafted
and the words, sounds, colours
with which people reflect and explore life.

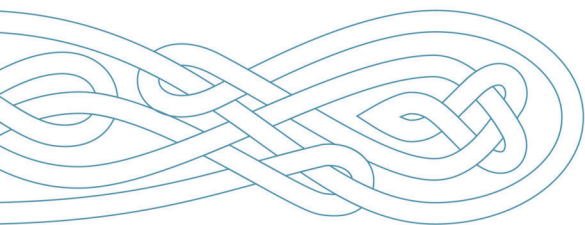
**We love you Holy God,
for not leaving us alone,
because in Jesus you became tangible:
hands touched him,
tears touched him,
generosity touched him.**

**And he has touched us.
That is why we are here.
That is why, across time and eternity,
We sing because we cannot keep silent:**

**Saint, saint, saint
Dieu de puissance et de force,
le ciel et la terre sont remplis de ta gloire.
Hosanna au plus haut des cieux.**

**Béni soit celui qui vient
au nom de notre Dieu.
Hosanna au plus haut des cieux.**

God we have been gathered by you
Caught in your net
Summoned to your table



As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality
let your spirit move among us
and be present in the food we share
so this bread and wine become for us
the presence of the living Jesus.

**Ouvre nos yeux pour le voir,
nos oreilles pour l'entendre,
nos mains pour le tenir,
nos cœurs pour le recevoir,
nos âmes pour le chérir.
Amen.**

Alors que nous nous ouvrons à ton hospitalité
généreuse,
que ton Esprit se meuve parmi nous
et soit présent dans la nourriture que nous
partageons
afin que ce pain et ce vin deviennent pour
nous
la présence vivante de Jésus.

Open our eyes to see him,
our ears to hear him,
our hands to hold him,
our hearts to receive him,
our souls to cherish him.
Amen

Song

The Sharing

As Jesus broke bread,
we break this bread.

bread is broken

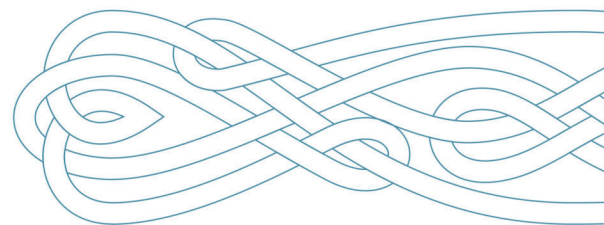
As Jesus took wine,
we take this cup.

cup is lifted

As his first disciples shared communion,
in an upstairs room,
we share these gifts from hand to hand,
and feed on them in our hearts
with love and gratitude.

The bread is broken, and with the wine, is shared for all. We pass it to each other in respectful silence. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, simply take it from the person who offers it and pass it to the person beside you.

Song: This is the Body of Christ



The Peace

We share the sign of Christ's peace with each other.

Closing Song: Mayenziwe

Final responses

Is God good
Dieu est bon.

Is life worth living?
La vie vaut la peine d'être vécue.

Is the best yet to come?
Toujours, le meilleur est encore à venir.

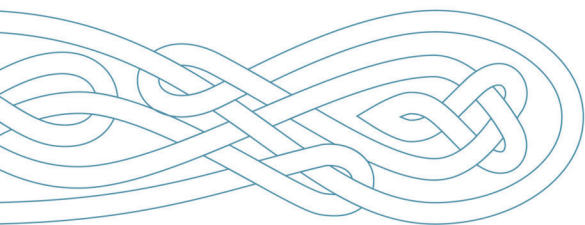
Then go,
as friends of Jesus,
and enjoy him forever.
Amen.

Dieu est-il bon ?
God is good.

La vie vaut-elle la peine d'être vécue ?
Life is worth living.

Le meilleur est-il encore à venir ?
Always, the best is yet to come.

Alors allez,
comme ami-e-s de Jésus
et profitez de lui pour toujours.
Amen.



Evening worship: Thursday 8th August

Service of Sending and Commitment

An Act of Commitment

We are here because Jesus calls us. Jesus is not neutral about those he loves. He does not want them simply to bask in his generosity, but to discover depths and potentials within themselves that are only found through commitment.

Jesus calls us to be committed to his person, because it was to relate personally to humanity that he came. But he also invites us to be committed to a style of life which represents on earth the qualities of heaven.

And Jesus calls us to a purpose: the redemption of all things – social, political, personal and religious – in accordance with the revealed will of God.

In this service, we are given the opportunity to recommit ourselves to Jesus and the purposes of God's kingdom. This may happen in a variety of ways, some of which may involve moving within the church. Such active engagement enables prayer in ways different from simply using words; however, it is always optional, and to remain seated and make a personal commitment is equally appropriate.

Welcome and introduction

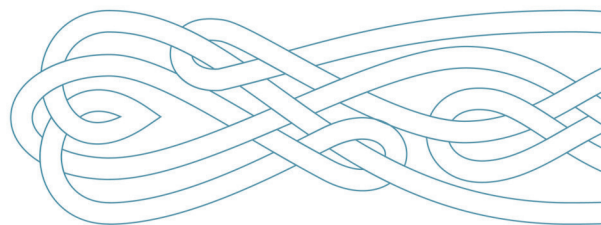
Opening response

Leader: To Pharisees minding their business, and fisherfolk mending their nets
ALL: **"Follow me!"**

Leader: To the money-handlers, the lawyers, the intellectuals, the power-brokers:
ALL: **"Follow me!"**

Leader: To the carers and the cleaners, the married, the single,
the young and the old, country-folk and city-dwellers:
ALL: **"Follow me!"**

Leader: Then and now, together and apart, willing or doubting, ready or not,
Jesus says:
ALL: **"Follow me!"**



Song: Stand Firm

Prayer of approach

Word and Reflection

Invitation to commitment

Song: I Waited Patiently for God

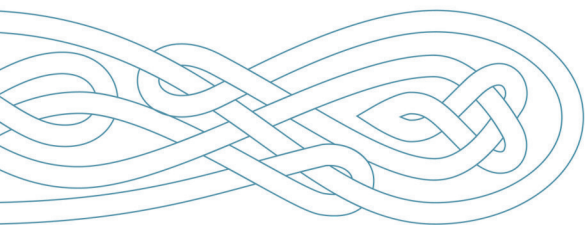
Making a sign of commitment

Affirmation

We believe and trust in God
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus
-the Word made flesh -
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the power of the Spirit.

We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect for creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and hope.

In life and death,
in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
Amen.



Prayer of commitment

Leader: In gratitude for this moment, this place,
those around us, Christ among us, we give ourselves to you our God.

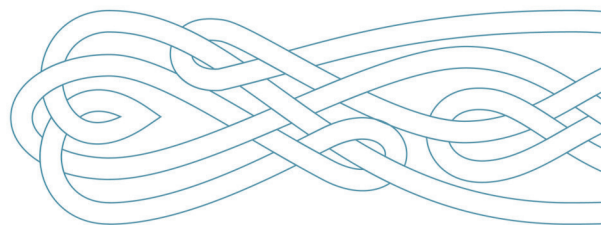
Take us out to live as changed people because we have met the risen Christ and cannot be the same.

ALL: Ask much of us, expect much from us. enable much by us,
encourage many through us.
So may we live to your glory both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Amen.

Closing song: Peace I Leave

Blessing

Leader: Now may God,
who gives seed to the sower and grain to the reaper, provide all that we need
so that we may produce a rich harvest of faith, love, justice and joy
for the good of the earth and its people and
to the glory of God. Amen



Suggested readings for Community Week 2024

We offer this sequence of readings to guide our reflections during Community Week. Taking the view that the experience of migration and being refugees is more about 'us' than it is about 'them', these readings trace this theme through the experience of the people of God as borne witness to in the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Gospels and the Epistles.

Monday

A reading from the Law: Deuteronomy 26 v 1-11

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labour. Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Tuesday

A reading from the Prophets: Jeremiah 29 v 1-7

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This was after King Jehoiachin^[a] and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

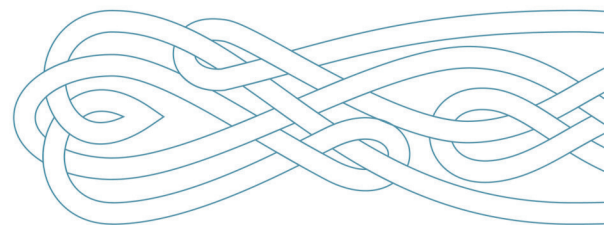
Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Wednesday

A reading from the Psalms: Psalm 137

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
- 2 There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
- 3 for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
- 4 How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
- 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.
- 7 Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.
“Tear it down,” they cried,
“tear it down to its foundations!”
- 8 Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
- 9 Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.

For the realness of these emotions.
For the uncomfortable truth they tell.
That your love is stronger than hate.
Thanks be to God.



Thursday

A reading from the Gospels: Matthew 2 v 13-23

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

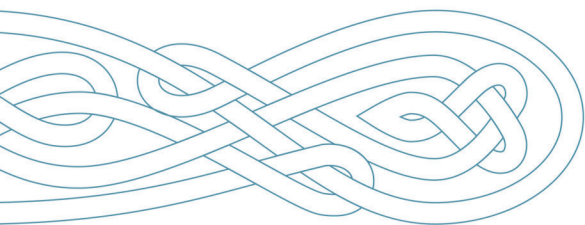
After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Friday

A reading from the Epistles: 1 Peter 2 v 9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.





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