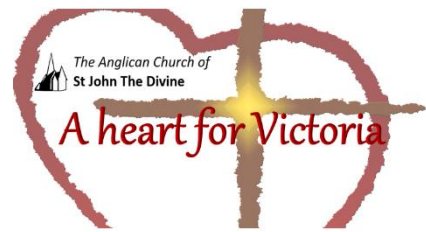


## Midday Prayers

*In the style of the Iona Community*

*Daytime liturgy A – the Wee Worship Book (altd.)*



### Call to worship

All you who are thirsty  
This is the place for water  
All you who are hungry,  
This is the place to be fed.

Why spend your earnings for what is not food?  
Why pay for that which fails to satisfy?

Here, without money,  
Here, without price,  
All may enjoy the bread of heaven.

God speaks  
And all who listen will have life.

### Opening response

Look for the Lord, while God is present  
*All* **we call out to God who is close at hand.**

### Prayer

Glorious God,  
Your thoughts are not our thoughts  
Nor are your ways our ways.

You look at the ugliest soul  
And see, still unstirred,  
The wings of an angel,  
*All* **We scan the finest of our neighbours,  
Anxious to find the flaws.**

You see our lives in the context of eternity,  
And make a time for waiting, for yearning,  
For putting all things in proportion.  
*All* **We demand instant results;  
And look for tomorrow  
Before savouring today.**

You know that only one who suffers  
Can ultimately save,  
So you choose to walk the way of the cross.  
*All* **We feel judged and threatened  
By that love which risks all for all.**

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,  
*All* **Nor are your ways our ways.**

*Pause*

Nor to have our worst confirmed  
But to have our best liberated,  
We pray for your grace and your pardon.  
*All* **Forgive in us what has gone wrong.  
Repair in us what is wasted,  
Reveal in us what is good.**

And nourish us with better food  
Than we could ever purchase:  
Your Word,  
Your love,  
Your interest,  
Your daily bread for our life's journey,  
In the company of Jesus Christ our brother.  
*All* **Amen**

### **Listening for the word of God**

Listen for the word of God in Holy Scripture,  
*All* **our ears, our hearts, our minds, are open.**

#### **Psalm 118.14-24**

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.  
15 Joyful shouts of salvation \*  
sound from the tents of the righteous:  
16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up; \*  
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'  
17 I shall not die, but live \*  
and declare the works of the Lord.  
18 The Lord has punished me sorely, \*  
but he has not given me over to death.  
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, \*  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
20 This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
the righteous shall enter through it.  
21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.  
22 The stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

- 23 This is the Lord's doing, \*  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

### Reading

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

*Zephaniah 3.14-18*

Hear what the Spirit is saying  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Prayers of concern

Let us pray for all who hunger in this land  
Whose only kitchen is a soup kitchen  
Whose only food is what others do not want  
Whose diet depends on luck, not on planning

*Pause*

Loving God, feed your people  
Using our skills and conscience,  
And eradicate from our politics, and private lives,  
The apathy to hunger which comes from over-eating

Let us pray for the hungry and the fed  
*All* **Lord, have mercy**

Let us pray for the hungry in other lands  
Where economies, burdened by debt,  
Cannot respond to human need  
Or where fields are farmed for our benefit  
By low waged workers courted by starvation.

*Pause*

Lord, feed your people,  
Even if rulers must cancel debt,  
And shareholders lose profit,  
Or diners restrict their choice  
In order that all may be nourished.

Let us pray for the hungry and the fed

*All*     **Lord, have mercy**

Let us pray for the hungry for justice  
Who document inequalities  
Demonstrate against tyranny,  
Distinguish between need and greed  
And are sometimes misrepresented  
Or persecuted in the process

*Pause*

May their labour not be in vain  
And may we be counter in their number.

*All*     Let us pray for the hungry and the fed  
**Lord, have mercy**

So, in the presence of the Bread of Life  
Who, refused food for himself,  
In order to nourish others,  
We deepen our devotion by praying his words:

*All*     **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 from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the Kingdom, the power and the Glory are yours,  
Now and forever.  
Amen**

### **Closing responses**

Now may God  
Who gives seed to the sower  
And corn to the reaper  
Give to us all that is needed  
To produce a good harvest

*All*     **May God make us fertile  
In faith, love, and goodness  
And take us out with joy  
And lead us on in peace,  
As signs of the fruitfulness of heaven. Amen.**