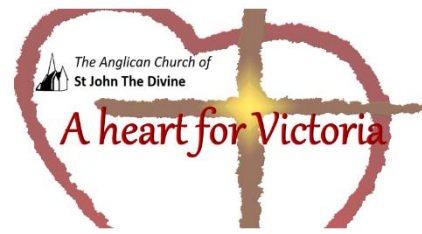


Midday Prayers

In the style of the Iona Community



Opening responses

All The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people

All How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in unity

All Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands

All If Christ's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud

All Open our lips, O God,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praised

Praise

I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation;
eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

Prayer for God's help

All Move among us, O God; give us life
Let your people rejoice in you

All Make our hearts clean within us
Renew us in mind and Spirit

All Give us again the joy of your help
With your spirit of freedom sustain us

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;

grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

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**

Affirmation

With the whole church

All **We affirm that we are made in God's image,
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Spirit**

With people everywhere

All **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation

All **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
The unfolding purposes of God, forever at work
In ourselves and the world**

Psalm 48

- 1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised,
in the city of our God.
- 2 God's holy mountain is fair and lifted high,
the joy of all the earth.
- 3 On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place,
stands the city of the great ruler.
- 4 In her palaces God has shown Godself
to be a sure refuge.

- 5 For behold, the kings of the earth assembled
and swept forward together.
- 6 They saw, and were dumbfounded;
dismayed, they fled in terror.
- 7 Trembling seized them there;
they writhed like a woman in labour,
as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.
- 8 As we had heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God:
God has established her for ever.
- 9 We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
- 10 As with your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is full of justice.
- 11 Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad,
because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 12 Walk about Zion and go round about her;
count all her towers;
consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels,
- 13 That you may tell those who come after
that such is our God for ever and ever.
It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

The reading for the day

Our reading comes from the book of Isaiah. Listen now for the Word of God.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Isaiah 61.1-3a

Silence

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

All **Thanks be to God**

Prayers of gratitude and concern

the response is

God, in your love

All **Hear our prayer**

O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation,
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.
We ask it for your own name's sake.

All **Amen**

Silence

Closing responses

This is the day that God has made;

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

We will not offer to God

All **Offerings that cost us nothing**

Go in peace to love and to serve

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

In the name of the Trinity of Love,

All **God in community, Holy and one.**