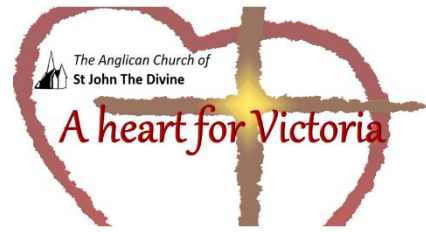


Midday Prayers

*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,
Nor are your ways our ways.

All

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

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

Psalm 30

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have raised me up *
and have not let my foes triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you *
and you have healed me.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; *
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; *
give thanks to his holy name.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favour for a lifetime. *
Heaviness may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning. R
- 6 In my prosperity I said,
'I shall never be moved. *
You, Lord, of your goodness,
have made my hill so strong.'
- 7 Then you hid your face from me *
and I was utterly dismayed.
- 8 To you, O Lord, I cried; *
to the Lord I made my supplication:
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit? *
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; *
O Lord, be my helper.' R
- 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; *
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;
- 12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Reading

Luke 23.13-25

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no

ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

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

All Let us pray for the hungry and the fed
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.

All Let us pray for the hungry and the fed
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.**