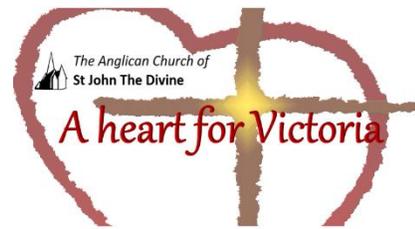


Midday Prayers

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 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters rage and swell, *
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed; *
God shall help her at the break of day.

- 6 The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, *
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and behold the works of the Lord, *
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease in all the world; *
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear
and burns the chariots in the fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Reading

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. *Joel 2.28,29*

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.

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.**