

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

*Adapted from The Abbey Liturgy of the Iona Community, Argyll, Scotland  
(Used by permission of the Bishop of Niagara)*

## **THE GATHERING**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **Opening Responses**

Celebrant: We come in this service to God,

**All: In our need, and bringing with us the needs  
of the world.**

Celebrant: We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus,

**All: And who walks with us the road of our  
world's suffering.**

Celebrant: We come with our faith and with our doubts,

**All: We come with our hopes and with our fears.**

Celebrant: We come as we are, because it is God who  
invites us to come,

**All: And God has promised never to turn us  
away.**

### **Confession**

**All: Holy God, maker of the skies above,  
lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,  
spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,  
in earth, sea and sky, you are there.  
O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,  
soul behind all souls, in everything we touch,  
in everyone we meet, your presence is round  
us, and we give you thanks. When we have  
not touched, but trampled you in creation,  
when we have not met but missed you in one  
another, forgive us, and hear now our plea  
for mercy.**

## **Absolution**

Celebrant: The creator of the world watches over you  
in your waking and your sleeping;  
the Saviour of the world ransoms himself for  
your sins and for your eternal life;  
the Spirit of the world dwells within you  
to guide you and keep you safe;  
the God of love and mercy grant you the  
grace of pardon, wholeness and peace,  
through Jesus Christ .

**All: Amen.**

## **Prayer of Invocation**

Celebrant: Come, Father of the poor,  
come, Light of our hearts,  
come, generous Spirit,  
by the glory of your creation around us,  
by the comfort of your forgiveness within us,  
by the wind of your Spirit  
eddying through the years within these walls,  
renew us, so that we come glad to this  
celebration.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: God, holy:

**All: God, strong and holy,  
God, holy and deathless,  
Have mercy on us.**

## **THE WORD**

### **Readings**

1st Reading

2nd Reading

**A Sung Celtic Blessing** (*Ruth Watson Henderson*)

The grace of God be with you,  
The grace of Christ be with you,  
The grace of the Spirit be with you  
and with your children every hour.

May God make safe to you each steep,  
May God make safe to you each pass,  
May God make clear to you each road,  
And may he take you in the clasp  
of his own two hands.

The peace of God be with you,  
The peace of Christ be with you,  
The peace of the Spirit be with you  
and with your children for eternity.

**A Celtic Blessing**

Celebrant: May the love of God fill you with  
joy and peace.  
May the healing power of Christ  
strengthen and save you.  
May the Holy Spirit encourage you.  
May a thousand angels guide your steps.  
And may a blessing from this holy place  
protect you all your days.

**All: Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

Celebrant: Go in peace, in friendship, and hospitality,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Closing Hymn**

**Gospel Hymn**

**The Holy Gospel**

Lay Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lay Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to .....

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Holy Gospel

Lay Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith #1**

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor.  
He was tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place  
of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere  
present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **Affirmation of Faith: #2**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All** We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
  
Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

## **The Sharing of Bread and Wine**

Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God**

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## **Closing Prayer**

Celebrant: O God our Father, who gave to your servant Columba the gifts of courage, faith, and cheerfulness, and sent people forth from the Holy Isle of Iona to carry the word of 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 of St. Mark's, that hidden things may be revealed to us, and new ways found to touch the hearts of all. May we preserve with each other sincere charity and peace, and, if it be your will, grant that this holy place of your abiding be continued still to be a sanctuary and a light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**All:** Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people. Gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

### **A Sign of Peace** *(the congregation stands)*

Celebrant: Many grains were gathered together to make this bread, many grapes were mixed to make this wine, so we who are many are one in Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **The Prayers of Intercession #1**

Lay Reader: You are above us, O God, you are beneath. You are in air, you are in earth, you are beside us, you are within. O God, you are in the betrayed and suffering people of our world, just as you were in the broken body of Jesus. We pray now for all that concerns us as we gather at table together. O Christ, we bow before you in this shelter-house of prayer once more to give thanks. Together we gather, celebrating your presence in creation around us, in the flowing air, and in the fertile earth. Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you sat at table with the betrayed and rejected of Palestine. We pray for those today who do not feel welcomed in their daily lives. Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you identified with the naked and with those who had no place to lay their heads. We pray for the thousands of homeless men and women, old and young, in our towns and in our cities. Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you belonged to a refugee family. We pray for the millions of displaced people in our world, and for the opening of borders to the nationless. Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you cared for your companions and for the little ones who surrounded you. We pray for the dependent ones whom God has given us to care for.

Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you who walk with the wounded along the road of our world's suffering, we seek your grace of healing for the broken people and places of our world.

Christ, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: O Jesus, you prayed that we might be one as you and the Father are one. We pray that during this week we may feel at home with one another and with you in our midst.

Let us offer our own prayers  
both spoken and unspoken .....

Christ in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Teach us now, O Christ, to pray as brothers and sisters...

**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.**

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

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We praise you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that bread broken and wine outpoured  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends,  
and taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
"Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."  
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
"Drink this, all of you;  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

So Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Celebrant: Great is the mystery of faith:

## The Sharing of Bread and Wine

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*(The sharing of the bread and wine)*

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## Eucharistic Prayer C

### The Invitation

Celebrant: The Lord is here.

**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should always sing of your glory, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation, we glorify your name, forever praising you and saying:

## The Prayers of Intercession #2

Lay Reader: Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honour and glory.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours (especially ...) and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loved us.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (especially ...); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died (especially, ...) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all the saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Lay Reader: We bring before you our own prayers, both spoken and unspoken...

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Teach us now, O Christ, to pray as brothers and sisters...

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Fraction

Celebrant: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said,

“This is my body - broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

Jesus, firstborn of Mary,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Jesus, Saviour of the world,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Jesus, monarch of heaven,

**All: Grant us peace.**

Celebrant: He whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread. He who redeemed us and called us by name now meets us in this cup. So take this bread and this wine. In them God comes to us so that we may come to God.

## A Sign of Peace *(the congregation stands)*

Celebrant: Christ who has nourished us, is our peace. Strangers and friends, male and female, old and young, he has broken down the barriers to bind us to him and to each other. Having experienced his goodness, let us share his peace.

**All: The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you.**



Here, too, our gratitude rises for the promise  
of the Holy Spirit,  
who even yet, even now,  
confronts us with your claims  
and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore we gladly join our voices  
to the song of the Church  
on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of Power and Might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: And now,  
lest we believe  
that our praise alone fulfils your purpose,  
we fall silent  
and remember him who came  
because words were not enough.  
Setting our wisdom,  
our will, our words aside,  
emptying our hearts,  
and bringing nothing in our hands,  
we yearn for the healing,  
the holding, the accepting, the forgiving  
which Christ alone can offer.  
*(Silence)*  
Merciful God,  
send now, in kindness,  
your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and  
wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.  
And let that same Spirit rest on us,  
converting us  
from the patterns of this passing world,  
until we conform to the shape of him  
whose food we now share.  
**Amen.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### Offertory Hymn

### Prayer Over the Gifts

### Eucharistic Prayer A

#### The Invitation

Celebrant: At the Last Supper Jesus, sharing bread and wine, invited the disciples to share his journey. Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread, the disciples were invited to become one body with him. Here through bread and wine, we renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples. Here, through bread and wine, we renew our unity with the earth and our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world. So come, taste of this bread and wine, gifts of the earth, work of human hands, food both of earth and of heaven.

#### The Story of the Last Supper

Celebrant: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, and, having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body which is given for you." In the same way he took wine, and, having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God." So now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and wine; the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us. And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also celebrate God's goodness.

## The Blessing of Bread and Wine

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ present with us now,  
as we do in this place what you did in an  
upstairs room, breathe your Spirit upon us  
and upon this bread and this wine,  
that they may be heaven's food and drink for  
us, renewing, sustaining and making us  
whole, and that we may be your body on  
earth, loving and caring in the world.

### A Sign of Peace *(the congregation stands)*

Celebrant: Many grains were gathered together  
to make this bread,  
many grapes were mixed to make this wine,  
so we who are many are one in Christ.  
May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

## FRACTION

Celebrant: The Body of Christ is broken  
for the life of the world.  
Here is Christ coming to us in bread and in  
wine.

## The Sharing of the Bread and Wine

The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## Eucharistic Prayer B

### The Invitation

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is indeed right,  
for you made us,  
and before us, you made the world we inhabit,  
and before the world,  
you made the eternal home in which, through  
Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular,  
and all that is plain  
have their origin in you;  
all that is lovely,  
all who are loving  
point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know  
and the universe beyond our understanding,  
we particularly praise you,  
whom eternity cannot contain,  
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking  
which contradicts our harmless generalities,  
for his enduring presence,  
his innocent suffering,  
his fearless dying,  
his rising to life breathing forgiveness,  
we praise you and worship him.