A Communion Liturgy of the Iona Community

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Not an easy peace, 
not an insignificant peace, 
not a halfhearted peace, 
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ 
be with you all. 
And also with you.

OPENING RESPONSES

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day 
To the rising of this life itself. 
Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose. 
The hand of God between us and each hand, 
The pain of Christ between us and each pain, 
The love of Christ between us and each love. 
O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day 
Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

We gather in God’s name. 
We claim Christ’s promised presence.

My brothers and sister, not out of dread and fear 
but believing that God is faithful to forgive, 
let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Eternal God, maker of the skies above, 
lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, 
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters, 
in earth 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 around us, and we give you thanks. 
But when we have not touched 
but trampled you in creation, 
when we have not met but missed you in one another,
when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE WORD
Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. Our hearts and minds are open.

1st Reading

2nd Reading

Talk

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

COLLECT

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Invitation
The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.
Let us pray.

**Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.**

We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now.

Made one in Christ, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

*The Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you.

And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world’s suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my body, given to 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.

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine.

May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole.

And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Amen.

_The Communion_

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread.
He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

**With people everywhere we affirm**

**God’s goodness at the heart of humanity,**

**planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

The gifts of God for the people of God ...

**Thanks be to God.**

*Share the Meal*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.