**Morning Worship for 18th July 2021**

***As you begin this act of worship in your own home remember that there are many friends who are doing the same and are joining with you in worship. If you have you-tube then please find an appropriate version of the hymns and join in the singing. As you go through this time of worship try to remember this reality; you are in the presence of God who holds us all in His care and keeping.***

**The Greeting:**

We come in this service to God,

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

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

And who walks with us the road of our worlds suffering.

We come with our faith and with our doubts;

We come with our hopes and with our fears.

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

And God has promised never to turn us away.

*The Iona Community Worship Book 1991*

**Collect for the day:**

Lord of all power and might,

The author and giver of all good things;

Graft in our hearts the love of your name,

Increase in us true religion,

Nourish us with all goodness,

And of your great mercy keep us in the same;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Our Declaration of faith**

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

**When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;**

**And when you pass through rivers,**

**They shall not overwhelm you.**

**When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned:**

**And the flame shall not consume you.**

**Do not fear, for I am with you,**

**I am the Holy One, your Saviour.**

**Hymn:** Christ is made the sure foundation.

**Readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6, Ephesians 2:11-end.

**Hymn**: All hail the power of Jesus’ name.

**Gospel Reading**: Mark 6:30-34, 53-end.

**Reflection:** This will be delivered by the Leader in church.

(For those at home a reflection will be sent through separately by Clive.)

**Hymn:** Faithful Shepherd feed me.

**Prayers for others:** This morning let us pause for prayer for so many people and for so many situations. Use these headings for your silent prayers to God or use words and address them to Him who hears every word we utter.

Heavenly Father, we pray today for your Church as it seeks to respond afresh to your call in the world. As we pray in thanksgiving for Christ the Good Shepherd, may the Church continue to feed the sheep of his pasture, may the power of his presence through the life giving Holy Spirit, so direct and guide us that we may move forward with growing confidence into the opening pastures of new life waiting for us to explore together in his name.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are persecuted for their belief in Jesus, for all who stand up for justice, morality and personal virtues. Be with all who struggle to make their voices heard, that their faith will strengthen them and give them all they need to persevere.

We pray for all who speak out for Social Justice and equality, especially those in positions of power and responsibility through their following from the status that they hold. Keep them strong in their endeavours and keep them free from racial prejudice and hostility.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Father as we offer the work of the Church into your care, help us to seek to offer the hand of friendship to all who are searching for spiritual depth and understanding in their lives. Help us to be open to that which calls them, and seek to offer to them, the insight that comes forth from your Holy Word in and through the sacrificial and spiritual life of Jesus our Lord. We pray for peace and understanding from the wider community and for their support of the Church for future generations.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

As we prepare for a summer season filled with the opportunities of renewed community engagement, we pray for all re-opening of fund raising and social engagements. As we seek to restore the things which we have been denied, let us do so carefully, respectfully and with renewed eyes, that we may seek to engage with a wider audience and in so doing promote the spiritual and social care of our communities.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for the hospitality sector as it re-opens fully in our midst, we pray that business will prosper and that employment and well-being will be restored. We pray for those who have lost their livelihood throughout the pandemic, those who are struggling to find meaningful employment. May we do all that we can to support local businesses and so help them to recover and so re-create employment opportunities for all your people.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

As we pray for growth and stability across the economies of the world, may the recovery programmes being introduced bring the level of support required in order to promote the well-being of all. We pray therefore for the governments of the world, for all who have influence upon others to seek to recover in full from the effects of the pandemic, so showing resilience and fortitude in the face of adversity.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

And so we pray

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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

**Hymn:** Christ is the World’s true light.

**Blessing:**

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,

Defend you on every side,

And guide you in truth and peace;

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**