**Morning Worship for 25th October 2020**

***As you begin this act of worship 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:**

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures

To be written for our learning:

Help us so to hear them, to read, mark,

Learn and inwardly digest them that,

Through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

For the hope of everlasting life,

Which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,

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**

**God of power, God of people,**

**You are the life of all that lives,**

**Energy that fills the earth,**

**Vitality that brings to birth,**

**The impetus toward making whole**

**Whatever is bruised or broken.**

**In you we grow to know the truth**

**That sets all creation free.**

**You are the song the whole earth sings,**

**The promise liberation brings,**

**Now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Miriam Therese Winter, Woman Prayer, Woman Song, Medical Mission Sisters 1987*

**Hymn:** All for Jesus.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Readings**: Nehemiah 8:1-12, Colossians 3:12-17.

**Hymn:** How lovely on the mountains.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 24:30-35.

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

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

**Hymn:** How sweet the name of Jesus sounds.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Prayers for others:** This morning let us pause for prayer for so many people and for so many situations.

We come boldly to the throne of grace,

Praying to the almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for mercy and grace.

Heavenly Father, we pray today for your Harvest of peace, joy and justice in your world. May all who are so dependent upon the harvest of human love, find true joy in their lives, may their sufferings be lifted from them and may they feel truly valued and respected by others.

We give you thanks for the harvest of the land, for the farmers who till the soil, for the skill involved in operating the machinery required in the harvest of grain, and feed, for those who labour in the sun to pick our fruit and vegetables, and for all who manage the complexities required in farming today. Give them strength to persevere in these difficult times and may they continue to feed the nation and keep us strong and healthy.

We pray at this troubled time for patience and calm within our communities as we enter into a new approach to the Covid Pandemic. We pray that you may give us all the resolve we need to keep those around us safe and secure. We pray for all who are particularly vulnerable at this time that their faith in you may strengthen them for the days ahead.

We pray especially for those who are struggling in the hospitality sector, for businesses under threat, for jobs being lost and for all who face worry and anxiety at this time. We pray for all communities suffering from the Coronavirus where there is a lack of resources to care for them and for all within our own communities as we see the threat of a further increase of the pandemic in our midst.

Father hear us as we continue to pray for the NHS with all the pressures and strains still upon it, that they would receive all the protection they need, and that they would experience your protection in their work, find courage for each day and stamina to care for all those who are so dependent upon them. For the sick and vulnerable that they would receive the care they need in their hour of weakness. For the lonely in our parishes, that they would know God’s presence in their solitude and receive a friendly call from their neighbours.

As we pray in thanksgiving for the harvest of knowledge, we thank you for your Holy Word, for the inspiration which it brings into our lives. We pray for all who teach it, proclaim it, and especially for all who live their lives in accordance with it. May the Scriptures which sustain us be a source of great comfort at this difficult time, that through reading and inwardly digesting them, we may be filled with the knowledge of your love for us in and through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We continue to pray for those in authority charged with leading the fight against the virus: for our Prime Minister and his Ministers, for Scientists working on vaccines and other means of fighting the infection. We pray also for those charged with ensuring that the law is upheld and that we continue to show concern for others in the way in which we live our lives.

Finally Father we pray for all who have lost loved ones throughout this troubled time, as they struggle with loss and the restrictions placed upon them in saying their last farewells, may they find that inner peace which comes through faith and so be comforted by your presence with them.

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:** Praise O Praise our God and King.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**A Harvest Thanksgiving.**

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth.

For the colour and forms of your creation and our place within it,

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

For our daily food, and for those whose work and skill

Bring your good gifts to us,

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;

For insight and imagination, for the skills of research

Which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,

For their variety and dependability;

For new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

For new hope and strength in our communities,

Especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

For all in whose lives we see

Goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,

And all the fruit of the Spirit,

We bring you thanks, good Lord.

For the life we have been given,

And for all those whom you have given us to share it,

We bring our thanks, good Lord.

**For your mercy endures for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Blessing:**

God the Father, who created the world,

give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

God the Son, who redeemed the world,

Inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,

Help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

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

**Amen.**