**Morning Worship for 4th 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:**

Almighty and everlasting God,

By whose Spirit the whole body of the

Church is governed and sanctified:

Hear our prayer which we offer for all

Your faithful people,

That in their vocation and ministry

They may serve you in holiness and truth

To the glory of your name;

Through our Lord and 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**

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:** Glorious things of thee are spoken.

**Readings: Ezekiel 2:1-5, 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10.**

**Hymn:** Father hear the prayer we offer.

**Gospel Reading**: Mark 6:1-13.

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

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

**Hymn:** Lord of all hopefulness.

**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.

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 Church as it seeks to respond afresh to your call in the world. For all faithful people who are today being encouraged like those early disciples to go out two by two to spread the Gospel in today’s world. We pray for all who seek to promote the faith within our own communities and for all who extend their mission to places throughout the world. May your Holy Spirit rest upon them, guide them and protect them from harm.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Hear us as we pray for peace in our world, as we have learnt to grow together in unity throughout the period of this global pandemic, may we continue to do so as we slowly re-emerge out of social distancing and restrictions. We recognise those places sadly in our world where peace has not been achievable. Praying for all caught up in conflict with others wherever they may be. May your Holy Spirit wash over them, restore and comfort them that as they go through their present turmoil, your eternal hope for global peace may remain ever before them as the aim of all humanity.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Lord we pray for family life at this time, recognising the closeness which has become possible through our time of isolation, renewed work practices and different approaches to the management of time. We pray that the values of family life will remain at the forefront of people’s minds that they may seek to find ways of ensuring that such closeness and intimacy remain to be a significant part of their daily lives.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

We pray for those whom we know and love, for all who are struggling at this time, for those whose mental health has been adversely affected during the last year, for all who have had urgent medical attention delayed and for all who remain so dependent on others for their general well-being. We pray for doctors, nurses and all health care workers at this time, may you continue to watch over them and strengthen them as they seek to care for others.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father be with us now in Christ Jesus, hear our prayers and bring solace and comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones. For all who have suffered separation, and loneliness, for others left uncertain of their futures and the direction their lives will take. May the blessing of your love and the power of your Spirit, lift them into the presence of your divine glory.

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:** Now thank we all our God.

**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.**