**Morning Worship for 8th August 2021**

***As we begin this act of worship for the first time in one of our churches we remember all those not able to be with us who are joining us in their own homes, we remember that there are many friends who are doing the same and are joining with us in worship. If you have you-tube then please find an appropriate version of the suggested hymns and join in the singing on-line. 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:**

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,

Be open to the prayers of your humble servants;

And that they may obtain their petitions

Make them to ask such things as shall please you;

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**

**We believe, O God of all Gods,**

**That you are the eternal God of life,**

**We believe, O God of all Gods,**

**That you are the eternal God of love.**

**We believe, O God and Maker of all creation,**

**That you are the creator of the high heavens,**

**That you are the creator of the deep seas,**

**That you are the creator of the stable earth.**

**We believe, O God of all the peoples,**

**That you created our souls and set their warp,**

**That you created our bodies and gave them breath,**

**That you made us in your own image.**

**We are giving you worship with our whole lives,**

**We are giving you assent with our whole power,**

**We are giving you our existence with our whole mind,**

**We are giving you kneeling with our whole desire.**

*(From a Celtic Liturgy: Iona Community.)*

**Hymn:** Abide with me.

**Readings:** 1 Kings 19: 4-8, Ephesians 4:25, 5:2

**Hymn:** I am the bread of life.

**Gospel Reading**: John 6:35.41-51.

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

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

**Hymn:** Make me a channel of your peace.

**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 Church as it seeks to respond afresh to your call in the world. We pray for our Bishops, Senior Staff and all Officers charged with finding a new direction for your Church at this time. We pray for patience, understanding and love to be shared by all as we begin to change the way which we worship and the way in which the Church is governed.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

As we prepare for change, we pray that you will send down your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may be guided to respond to your call, be prepared to abandon much of the past and be directed into new approaches that will enable growth and mission to take precedence in our Church life.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We pray for all families today, as they celebrate the Summer Season with their children. We pray that they may all keep safe and enjoy quality time together. We pray for all teachers and school staff, that they may find time for some rest and relaxation amidst all the preparations required of them to be ready and fit for a safe return for all children in September.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Father hear us as we continue to pray for the vulnerable in our society that they may 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.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

As we recall Christ’s promise that all who come to him will never be hungry or thirsty, we pray for all who have no access to clean drinking water in our world giving thanks for charities such as Water Aid who seek to transform their lives by providing them with that which we take for granted.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are hungry, for those in so many nations who are malnourished, and for all who find themselves trapped in the cycle of poverty. We pray that the world’s resources may be used more equitably so enabling all your children to be blessed with the physical needs which they need.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Hear us as we bring before you all those in our own communities who struggle, those whom we know to be ill at this time, and especially holding in our prayers all those who have long term responsibility to act as carers for the elderly and frail. May our prayers strengthen them in the challenges ahead, and bring them some comfort and peace.

And finally Lord, we hold before you all whom have lost loved ones throughout this long period of struggle, may they be comforted by your love, and supported throughout their times of sadness.

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:** O love that wilt not let me go.

**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.**