**Iona Morning Worship**

**Welcome**

Leader The world belongs to God,

**All** **The Earth and all its people.**

How good it is, how wonderful,

**To live together in unity.**

Love and faith come together,

**Justice and peace join hands.**

If Christ’s disciples keep silence

**These stones will shout aloud.**

Open our lips, O God,

**And our mouths**

**shall proclaim your praise.**

*Please sit for*

**The Prayers of Penitence**

Leader Eternal God,

maker of the skies above,

lowly Christ,

born amidst the growing earth,

Spirit of life,

wind over the flowing waters,

in earth, sea 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.

*Silence…*

**Before God,**

**with the people of God,**

**we confess to our brokenness,**

**to the ways we wound our lives,**

**the lives of others,**

**and the life of the world.**

Leader May God forgive us,

Christ renew us,

and the Spirit enable us

to grow in love. **Amen.**

Leader Move among us O God; give us life:

**All Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us:

**Renew us in mind and in spirit.**

Give us again the joy of your help:

**With your Spirit of freedom sustain us.**

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

**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.**

*Please stand for*

**The Affirmation of Faith**

Leader With the whole church

**All We affirm**

**that we are made in God’s image, befriended by Christ,**

**empowered by the Spirit.**

Leader With people everywhere

**All We affirm**

**God’s goodness**

**at the heart of humanity,**

**planted more deeply**

**than all that is wrong.**

Leader With all creation

**All We celebrate**

**the miracle and wonder of life;**

**the unfolding purposes of God,**

**forever at work**

**in ourselves and the world.**

*Please sit for*

***A Time of Sharing and Learning***

*Please sit or kneel for*

**Prayers and Intercessions**

Leader Loving God,

you have led us to this place today,

not to shield us

from heartache and the pain of human life,

but to heal us and inspire us,

to gently redirect us,

till we see the world as you do

and love it with your love.

*Let God’s people say*

**Amen!**

Leader Forgiving God,

your Son once said

that his brother, sister, mother

were all who did your will.

Yet even when we *fail* to do your will

you welcome us

and accept us as your children.

Teach us to include others

as readily as you include us;

for to do so is your heavenly will.

*Let God’s people say*

**Amen!**

Leader Eternal God,

out of your great generosity

you brought the world into being

and gave it life.

Then you gave yourself,

on the cross of human suffering.

Such priceless, painful giving!

Show us a different kind of world,

a different cost of living,

where the pain will not be eased

by the money we spend on ourselves,

but by the way

we spend ourselves for others,

and the way we value life.

*Let God’s people say*

**Amen!**

Leader Liberator God,

your Son came into a holy place

and read the sacred word

about sight for the blind

and freedom for prisoners.

Come to *this* place *now*, O Son of God.

Read these words *to us*

till our own eyes are opened,

our faith is unlocked,

and we can see the world as It is,

and as it could be…

till the yearnings of ordinary people

are taken seriously,

and the visions of the young are valued,

and the potential of the old is released;

till your kingdom is celebrated everywhere, and your church is good news to the poor.

*Let God’s people say*

**Amen!**

Leader Creator God,

we look in wonder at all you have made.

But remind us:

the earth does not belong to us;

we belong to the earth.

And remind us:

the earth, and all that is in it,

belongs to you.

You confront us

with such beauty

and such power

and such responsibility.

Teach us, O creator God,

to respect this planet, our home,

to live carefully within the web of life,

and to give you the glory.

*Let God’s people say*

**Amen!**

*Time for silent prayer…*

*A prayer for the day ahead…*

**All O God, set your blessing on us**

**as we begin this day together.**

**Confirm us in the truth**

**by which we rightly live;**

**confront us with the truth**

**from which we wrongly turn.**

**We ask not for what we want,**

**but for what you know we need,**

**as we offer this day and ourselves**

**for you and to you,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**A Prayer of Blessing and Sending**

Leader May God,

who is present in sunrise and nightfall,

in the parting of roads,

and in the crossing of the sea,

guide our feet as we go.

May God,

who is with us when we sit

and when we stand,

encompass us with love

and lead us by the hand.

May God,

who knows our path

and the places where we rest,

be with us in your waiting,

be our good news for sharing,

and lead us in the way that is everlasting. **Amen.**