

***The Benefice of Chewton Mendip with Emborough,  
Litton & Ston Easton***



**Morning Prayer**

# **Contents**

Page 3 - Common Worship

Page 9 – Celtic Morning Prayer

Page 11 – Iona Morning Praise

Page 14 – Morning Prayer for Lent – a litany of repentance

Page 18 – Morning Prayer for Easter - a litany of creation

## Common Worship

**O Lord, open our lips,**

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*The following is said or sung: A Song of God's Glorious Name*

Lord our governor, •

How glorious is your name in all the world!

Your majesty above the heavens is praised •

Out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

You have founded a stronghold against your foes, •

That you might still the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, •

The moon and the stars that you have ordained,

What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them; •

Mere human beings, that you should seek them out?

You have made them little lower than the angels •

And crown them with glory and honour.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands •

And put all things under their feet,

All sheep and oxen, •

Even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea •

And whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

O Lord our governor, •  
How glorious is your name in all the world!  
**Glory to the Father and to the Son**  
**And to the Holy Spirit;**  
**As it was in the beginning is now**  
**And shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
So may the light of your presence, O God,  
Set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### **Psalmody**

*The appointed psalmody is said.*

*Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning is now**  
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.*

## Canticle

*A Song of the Word of the Lord may be said.*

### **Refrain:**

**Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
To our God, who will richly pardon.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, •  
Call upon him while he is near;  
Let the wicked abandon their ways, •  
And the unrighteous their thoughts;

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; •  
To our God, who will richly pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, •  
Neither are your ways my ways,” says the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, •  
So are my ways higher than your ways  
And my thoughts than your thoughts.

As the rain and the snow come down from above, •  
And return not again but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth, •  
Seed for sowing and bread to eat,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; •  
It will not return to me fruitless,

But it will accomplish that which I purpose, •  
And succeed in the task I gave it.” *Isaiah 55.6-11*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

## **Old and New Testament Readings**

*The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.*

*A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow.*

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
And afterwards receive me with glory.  
**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
And afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you; You hold me by my right hand.  
**And afterwards receive me with glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

*Psalms 73*

## **Gospel Cantic**

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said.*

***Refrain:***

**You show mercy to our ancestors,  
And remember your holy covenant.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •  
Who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, •  
Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old •  
To save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate  
us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, •  
And to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •  
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, •  
Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High, •  
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation •  
By the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God •  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •

And to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***Refrain:***

**You show mercy to our ancestors,  
And remember your holy covenant.**

**Prayers**

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*(or)*

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Silence may be kept.*

**Collect of the Day**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Conclusion**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
And keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Morning Prayer - Celtic**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Opening Sentences**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
To behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

Who is it that you seek?

**We seek the Lord our God.**

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

**Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

### **Declaration of faith**

**To whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life,**

**And we have believed and have come to know**

**That you are the Holy One of God.**

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.**

## **Old and New Testament Readings**

### **Collect of the day**

### **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

#### **Canticle**

**Christ as a light illumine and guide me.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ, under me; Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me,  
Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
In the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.  
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.**

#### **Blessing**

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with us,  
Wherever He may send us.  
May He guide us through the wilderness,  
Protect us through the storm.  
May He bring us home rejoicing  
At the wonders He has shown us.  
May He bring us home rejoicing  
Once again into our doors.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

# Iona Morning Praise

## Opening responses

The world belongs to God,  
**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 silent  
**These stones would shout aloud.**

Open our lips, O God,  
**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

## Confession

Holy God, maker of all, **have mercy on us.**  
Jesus Christ, servant of the poor, **have mercy on us.**  
Holy Spirit, breath of life, **have mercy on us.**

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

*Silence.*

Before God, with the people of God,  
I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life,  
The lives of others, and the life of the world.  
**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,**  
**And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**  
**Amen.**

**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.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**Amen.**

## **Old and New Testament Readings**

### **Affirmation**

With the whole church

**We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
Befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted  
more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding  
purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the  
world.**

## **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

### **Prayer for the Day**

O Christ, you are within each of us.

It is not just the interior of these walls:

It is our own inner being you have renewed.

We are your temple not made with hands.

We are your body.

If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,

We are your habitation.  
Nearer are you than breathing, closer than hands and feet.  
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,  
Look out with compassion on the world.  
Yet we bless you for this place,  
For your directing of us, your redeeming of us, and your  
indwelling.  
Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,  
Out to where soldiers curse and nations clash  
At the crossroads of the world.  
So shall this building continue to be justified.  
We ask it for your own name's sake.  
**Amen.**

### **Closing responses**

This is the day that God has made;  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**  
We will not offer to God  
**Offerings that cost us nothing.**  
Go in peace to love and to serve;  
**We will seek peace and pursue it.**  
In the name of the trinity of love,  
**God in community, holy and one.**

## **Morning Prayer for Lent**

### **A Litany of Repentance**

God, all-loving and all-caring,

We come before you with hesitant steps and uncertain motives.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

We want to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated

And uncover the places where we have strayed from your truth.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

We ask for courage to open our eyes and unstop our ears  
That we may be aware of all that distracts us from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

We want to see ourselves as you do and live our lives as you intended.

Expose in us the empty and barren places where we have not allowed you to enter.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

Reveal to us our half-hearted struggles,  
Where we have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of others.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a right Spirit within us.

Nurture the faint stirrings of new life where your spirit has taken root and begun to grow.

**Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

We long for your healing light to transform us into the image of your Son,

For you alone can bring new life and make us whole.

**In your mercy, shine upon us, O God, and make our path clear before us.**

*Silence to remind yourself of your own brokenness and need for repentance.*

God of mercy, come into the hidden places of our hearts,  
Forgive our sins and make us whole.

**Christ of compassion, come into the broken places of our world,**

**Bring us to repentance and renew us.**

Spirit of life, come into the polluted places of our lives,  
Have mercy on us and draw us close.

**Son of the living God, Christ crucified,**

**Forgive us, heal us, redeem us, lead us from death to eternal life.**

## **Old and New Testament Readings**

*Silence to reflect on the scriptures to think about those things that vie for your attention and distract you from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ.*

**Things that clutter and consume,**

**We lay them down.**

**Attitudes that separate and divide,**

**We lay them down.**

**Thoughts that confuse and disrupt,**

**We lay them down.  
Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again,  
We lay them down.**

## **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

*Followed by silence to offer up your own prayers of intercession.*

God, you are good and upright, and you instruct sinners in  
your ways,  
Show us how to break down the barriers separating us from  
each other,  
**Lead us through the wilderness sin has created to find new  
life.**

Forgive us for the times we have abandoned the poor, the  
disabled, and the homeless,  
Teach us to live by the law of love in unity, peace, and  
harmony.  
**Lead us through the wilderness sin has created to find new  
life.**

Forgive us for the ways we exclude people of different race,  
culture, or gender,  
Guide us that we may come to mutual understanding and  
care.  
**Lead us through the wilderness sin has created to find new  
life.**

Draw us into your community to embrace those with whom  
we need to be reconciled,  
Grant that all who seek to heal divisions between peoples  
may have hope.

**Lead us through the wilderness sin has created to find new life.**

Show us your ways, O Lord,

Teach us your paths and guide us towards your truth.

**Lead us through the wilderness sin has created to find new life.**

*Silence to offer your own prayers of repentance.*

May the God of creation breathe on you,

May the God of all life sustain you,

May the God of all Gods grant you forgiveness.

**Go into the day knowing your life has been touched by the triune God.**

**You are cleansed by the mercy of God,**

**You are surrounded by the love of Christ,**

**You are filled with the power of the Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## **Easter - A litany of Creation**

In the beginning, all was darkness and God said, "Let there be light".

**And because God had said it there was light.**

In the beginning, all was silence and God sang the song of creation.

**And because God sang, all the stars and spheres vibrated to the music of God.**

In the beginning, all was still and God laughed.

**And because God laughed, the waters took up the roar and the ripple of it; and ebbled and flowed and seeped and swirled and delighted in the ways of its being.**

In the beginning, all was dull and God painted.

**And because God painted the sky became blue - and purple - and pink, the grass became green; and flowers and butterflies danced in the drips and settled like jewels in the earth.**

In the beginning, all was unconscious and God breathed.

**And because God breathed men and women woke up from their sleeping. They breathed of the very life of God and stood in wonder before the work of God's hands. They beheld the glory of God and they saw that it was very good.**

## **Old and New Testament Readings**

## **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

## **Closing responses**

In the beginning God created all things.

**And God saw that they were good.**

At our beginning, God created us.

**Unique and irreplaceable; loved by God and wanted by God;  
known to God and treasured by God even before he created  
us.**

In all our new beginnings, God creates something new.

**So we will seek God in the freshness of morning, in the  
laughter of friends, in the colours of creation and in the  
warmth of spring-time sunshine.**

Lord God, King of creation,

**Open our eyes to see your presence, our souls to sense your  
presence and our hearts to love your presence; ever here in  
your creation and ever beyond it in eternity.**

**Amen.**