

Service of the Word

7th February 2021

“

You! Yes, you

The one reading this.
You are beautiful, talented,
amazing and simply the
best at being you.

NEVER FORGET THAT.

”

Opening Prayer

Reshape us, good Lord, until in generosity, in faith, and in the expectation that the best is yet to come, we are truly Christ-like.

Make us passionate followers of Jesus, rather than passive supporters.

Make our churches places of radical discipleship
and signposts to heaven, then, in us, through us, and - if need be - despite us, let
your kingdom come. Amen.

The Iona Community

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it:
a land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared,
and everyone can enjoy them;
a land where different races and cultures
live in tolerance and mutual respect;
a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. And give
us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession:

Generous God you have given us so many gifts, but we fail to be thankful
Forgive us Lord, and give us generous hearts.

Lord you give us an abundance of love but we do not share your love
Forgive us Lord, and give us generous hearts.

Eternal God, our attitude to money gets in the way of our faith and future
Forgive us Lord, and give us generous hearts.

Absolution

The God who loves you, knows you by name and calls you his own,
Forgives your sin, and has faith in you to resist temptation to sin,
God's mercy is generous towards you, be freed from your sin
In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that
we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading Proverbs 8.1,22-31

¹Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
²³Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth –
²⁶when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

Prayer

Lord, give us the strength and the faith to respond to your challenging words. We
ask you to help us to be responsible stewards of your gifts. We ask you to bless us
with the courage, generosity, and selflessness to help us multiply your gifts among
us for the glory of your name. **Amen**

Psalm 104.26-37

Refrain: **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.**

26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦ In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

27 **There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦ and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.**

28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦ which you have made to play in the deep.

29 **All of these look to you ♦ to give them their food in due season.**

30 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦ you open your hand and they are filled with good.

31 **When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦ when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.**

32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦ and you renew the face of the earth.

33 **May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦ may the Lord rejoice in his works;**

34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; ♦ he touches the mountains and they smoke.

35 **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ♦ I will make music to my God while I have my being.**

36 So shall my song please him ♦ while I rejoice in the Lord.

37 **Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. ♦ Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.**

Refrain: **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.**

Creed I believe in Jesus

I believe in Jesus
I believe He is the Son of God
I believe He died and rose again
I believe He paid for us all

And I believe He is here now
Standing in our midst

