

These are the notes prepared for the service on March 15, 2020. Due to COVID-19, we actively discouraged people from taking any risks. This was planned for those who needed something. It may not have been used as is, and may not be properly footnoted.

Welcome & announcements

- programs are on hold for the moment
 - please stay in touch
- many are living in fear “carrying heavy burdens”
 - reminded of Matthew 11: 28
‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’”



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship ¹

We gather in your presence, God,

in our need,

and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

and you know by experience what human life is like.

We come with our faith and with our doubts;

we come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because you have invited us;

and you have promised never to turn us away.

¹ Iona Worship Book 2017: healing service A

opening hymn: God of mercy, God of grace.....39

Prayer²

Loving God,

you gather us here today,

here, where many have come before us

seeking your healing, strength and love.

You know us, God:

you understand who we are,

you know what troubles and puzzles us,

what makes us smile and what makes us sad.

You listen to our questions and our prayers.

You know the people we love, God,

and the people we struggle with.

Sometimes we hurt others;

sometimes we hurt ourselves.

So we bring our own hurt

asking for your healing;

and we bring the hurt we have caused others

asking for forgiveness.

(*silence*)

Listen to these words of Jesus,

words that we can trust:

‘Don’t be afraid’

² Iona Worship Book 2017: healing service A

'I love you.'

'Your sins are forgiven.'

'I will be with you always.'

(pause)

Write these words in our hearts, loving God,
let them take root in our living.

Amen.

Lord's prayer

As we acknowledge who we are and our relationships, we turn
to God with the prayer Jesus left about relationships.

intro to readings

- Psalm 46: 10
 'Be still, and know that I am God!
 I am exalted among the nations,
 I am exalted in the earth.'
-

Hymn: Be still and know that I am God.....64

readings, silence reflection, re-reading & opportunity for verbal reflection

Mark 1: 29-39 - healing P's mom & praying

...

- Jesus present healing
 - goes off to pray
 - goes out to continue his 'call'
- other passages
 - Jesus healing lepers, etc. = Jesus goes to those who are suffering.

Psalm 46 - refrain 2 - or not at all

...

- 6: The nations are in an uproar
- 5: God is in the midst of the city
- 1-2a: God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble.
 Therefore we will not fear

**In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- three in one.
Amen.**

musical moment for meditation

hymn after sermon: The Lord is my song.....446

offering:

may be left in the plate by the door.

Prayers of the people

-

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health, with their families, friends and those who care for them: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit, and all who care for them: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence the suffering people of our world, and the places where people are experiencing division, injustice and violence: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome addiction or abuse, those supporting and working with them, and all whose suffering has distanced them from those who love: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement. We also pray for those who have died: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we thank you where health is restored and prayers answered: ...
We hold in your healing presence and peace those whose

needs are not known to us: ...

And those whose names we do not know, but who are known to you, and for whom we have been asked to pray. And we name in our hearts those who are close to us: ...
... May they know the deep peace of Christ.

May your wisdom, God, guide government and corporate leaders here and abroad.

May your Spirit also guide and strengthen nurses, doctors and those who work in every part of our Health Service and across the world.

God of compassion and love,
we offer you all our suffering and pain.
Give us strength to bear our weakness,
healing even when there is no cure,
peace in the midst of turmoil
and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

Glory to God, from whom all love flow,
glory to Jesus, who showed his love through suffering,
and glory to the Holy Spirit,
who brings light to the darkest places.
Amen.

closing hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus.....746

sending & benediction:

Last sentence of Matthew:

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

May God the Father bless you,

God the Son heal you,

God the Holy Spirit give you strength.

May God the holy and undivided Trinity

guard your body and soul,

leading you to a life forever with our Lord.³

♪ Sing **Go now in peace** 622

³ adapted from Worship Sourcebook (2004) 9.2.17