Midday Prayers

In the style of the Iona Community

Opening responses

The world belongs to God,
All **The earth and all its people**

How good it is, how wonderful,
All **To live together in unity**

Love and faith come together,
All **Justice and peace join hands**

If Christ's disciples keep silent
All **These stones would shout aloud**

Open our lips, O God,
All **And our mouths shall proclaim your praised**
I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation;
eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

Prayer for God's help

Move among us, O God; give us life
All ***Let your people rejoice in you***

Make our hearts clean within us
All **Renew us in mind and Spirit**

Give us again the joy of your help
All **With your spirit of freedom sustain us**

Collect for the Day

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

All **Amen**.

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

All **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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the Glory are yours,
Now and forever.
Amen

Affirmation

With the whole church

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

With people everywhere

All **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity**
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong

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

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy.

3 Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us,

and therefore we rejoiced.

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.

6 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

The reading for the day

Our reading comes from the Gospel of Matthew. Listen now for the Word of God.

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

Matthew 11.28

Silence, the reading may be read twice

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us
All **Thanks be to God**

Prayers of gratitude and concern

the response is
God, in your love
All **Hear our prayer**

O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation,
wield well your tools in the workshop of your world,
so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench
may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake.
All **Amen**

Silence

Closing responses

This is the day that God has made;
All **We will rejoice and be glad in it**

We will not offer to God
All **Offerings that cost us nothing**

Go in peace to love and to serve
All **We will seek peace and pursue it**

In the name of the Trinity of Love,
All **God in community, Holy and one**.