

Midday Prayers

In the style of the Iona Community



Acknowledgement of Lands and Welcome

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship, building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

We are an inclusive and affirming parish; the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we.

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

Let us pray

**God of Moses, who rained down bread on Israel's wandering people:
lead us to the food that never leaves us craving,
but fills our whole humanity with life enough for all;
through Jesus Christ, the true bread of heaven.**

All **Amen.**

And now, as our brother 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 145

17 The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

19 He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

20 The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

The reading for the day

Our reading comes from the Acts of The Apostles.
Listen now for the Word of God.

The Sons of Sceva

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them. Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.' Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit said to them in reply, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man with the evil spirit leapt on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. Also many of those who became believers confessed and disclosed their practices. A number of those who practised magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty-thousand silver coins. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Acts 19: 11-20

Silence

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

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

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

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

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

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