

## **Iona - A Simple Liturgy** **Vocations Sunday, April 25th**

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish peoples have walked gently on the territories where we now live, work, worship and play. We seek a new relationship with the Scia'new and other first peoples here, based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

Peace on each one who comes in need.

**Peace on each one who comes in joy.**

Peace on each one who offers prayers.

**Peace on each one who offers song.**

Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,

**Peace of the Spirit, the Triune One.**

### ***Kid's Time***

*After Kids' Time, the kids go to their breakout room.*

*The Kids & David*

### ***Hymn CP 85 Shepherd of Souls***

*Jennifer*

### ***Prayer***

*Wally*

God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,  
which has brought us to birth  
and opened our eyes to the wonder the beauty of creation.  
**We give you thanks.**

O God, for your love for us, wild and freeing,  
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:  
to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings.  
**We give you thanks.**

For your love for us, compassionate and patient,  
which has carried us through our pain,  
wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion.  
**We give you thanks.**

For your love for us, strong and challenging,  
which has called us to risk for you,  
asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve.

**We give you thanks.**

O God, we come to celebrate  
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life.  
Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus,  
and draw us into your presence.

***The Word of God***

*Linda*

*Written near the end of the first century the book of Acts, penned by the same person who composed the gospel of Luke, tells the story of the expansion of the Church. This episode that the writer relates is set in the days immediately following Pentecost. The scene is this: Peter and John in Jesus name have healed a lame man at the Jerusalem Temple gate. The astonished crowd that has witnessed the healing is told the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. This has angered the Temple authorities and they move to silence the apostle's testimony. As you will hear in this first reading from Acts, chapter 4, those who were empowered at Pentecost by the Spirit will not, cannot remain silent.*

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, Word of Life

***Psalm 23***

*Rachel*

[Refrain] The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Linda*

*Near the end of the first century an unknown author wrote three brief letters, the first being the longest. The community that the writer addresses has recently experienced conflict and division and this has resulted a breakup within the community. A clue to what has happened is given at the beginning of this reading: it seems that some affluent members in the community have denied helping others less fortunate than themselves. They have refused to reach out to them and give assistance to "the poorer ones". The author reminds the congregation that love, if it is to be real and effective should lead to acts of charity, otherwise it's just empty words that lack substance. A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of John, chapter 3 verses 16-24*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, Word of Life

### ***Gospel***

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

The Good News of Jesus Christ, according to John 10: 11-18

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*Wally*

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the

sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of Christ

***Sharing of the Day***

*Wally*

***Hymn CP 585 Lord Whose Love***

*Rachel*

***Prayer***

*Ruth*

We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

*prayer leader*

***common response***

We bring to God someone who is hurting today and needs our prayer.

*prayer leader*

***common response***

We bring to God, silently someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust.

*prayer leader*

*period of silence*

***common response***

We bring ourselves to God

that we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.

***common response***

***Announcements***

- \* *Kids return during Announcements*
- \* *Wardens*
- \* *others in the congregation*
- \* *clergy*

*Closing Hymn CP 514 Jesu Joy of our Desiring*

*Allison*

*Closing responses*

*Wally*

O Trinity of Love, you have been with us since the beginning  
**Be with us till the world's end.**

You have been with us at our life's shaping,  
**Be with us at our life's end.**

You have been with us at the sun's rising,  
**Be with us till the day's end. Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Hallelujah!**