

OPENING WORSHIP

Thursday 15th September 2011

Theme: The Compassion of God – the Rock where all our pain is held

Welcome and Introduction

Gathering

Creator of the world, eternal God
**We have come from many places
for a little while.**

Redeemer of humanity, God with us,
**We have come with all our differences,
seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, go-between God,
**We have come with questions of our own,
longing for wisdom, for comfort, for your presence.**

Three-in-one God
We worship you.

Iona Abbey Worship Book © 2001 The Iona Community, Wild Goose Publications

Songs:

Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock,
His work is perfect and all His ways are just.
Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock,
His work is perfect and all His ways are just.

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Good and upright is He;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Good and upright is He.

© 1979 Mary R Barthow & Mary Lou King

To be in Your presence
To sit at Your feet,
Where Your love surrounds me,
And makes me complete.

This is my desire, O Lord,
This is my desire.
This is my desire, O Lord,
This is my desire.

To rest in Your presence,
Not rushing away;
To cherish each moment,
Here I would stay.

Noel Richards © 1991 Thankyou Music

Psalm 145: 1-12, 19

O God, I will praise you to the heights,
I will bless your name for ever.

**You are gracious and compassionate,
patient and ever faithful.**

I will bless you every day
and praise your name for ever.

Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised;
your greatness is beyond all measure.

Age to age will praise your works
and proclaim your mighty deeds.

I will meditate on your splendour and glory;
I will ponder the story of your wonders.

People will speak of your awesome power,
and I shall tell of your greatness.

They will recall your abundant goodness
age to age will ring out your justice.

**You are gracious and compassionate,
patient and ever faithful.**

Your compassion rests on every creature;
how good you are to all.

Let your creatures thank you, God,
and your loyal servants bless you.

Let them speak of your glorious reign,
and declare your power, O God.

Let them make known to the whole human race
the glory and might of your reign.

You are close to all who call on you,
who call on you from their heart.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**You are gracious and compassionate,
patient and ever faithful.**

Old Testament Reading: Lamentations 3: 19 – 26, 31-33

Song:

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
you lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone

Brian Doerckson ©1998 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

New Testament Reading: Matthew 20:29 – 34

Affirmation of Faith

In response to what we have heard, let us affirm our faith:

**We believe in God,
from whose heart flows forth
healing enough for the pain of the world
and our pain.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
who saw into the souls, minds and bodies
of people like us
and reached out in healing touch,
gathering in the wounded ones
in love beyond the commonplace.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who breathes warmth
into the cold places,
touches with living fire
the deathliness in our life
and remembers with grief,
all the hurts
which we dare not name.**

*The Glory of Blood, Sweat and Tears: Liturgies for Living and Dying © Dorothy McRae McMahon
1996*

Prayers

When the two blind men heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, “Lord, have mercy on us?” Jesus stood still and called them, saying, “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord, let our eyes be opened.” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes.

Jesus, as you look at the people
in the hospitals where we work,
in the parishes where we minister,
in the streets where we live,
still you look with compassion

and with the blind men we cry,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Jesus, as we look into the depths of your compassion,
we bring to you those we have brought with us,
because they are especially on our hearts:

Pause

And with the blind men we cry,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Into the depths of your compassion, Lord Jesus,
we bring ourselves.
We need your light,
we need your forgiveness.
we need your healing,
we need you,
so we come to you:

Pause

And with the blind men we cry,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

*(These prayer were based on parts of Prayers of Approach 3 from Prayers and Ideas for Healing
Services by Ian Cowie © 1995 Wild Goose Publishing/The Iona community*

We draw together our prayers with the words our Saviour taught us:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn:

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of life, our ransom
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

William Rees

Closing Prayer

**Lord, we thank you for your love –
Steadfast and unending.
We thank you for your presence with us here.
We commit ourselves into your care and ask
That you would guide us, hold us, keep us.
Help us to listen and share, learn and pray
Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

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