

Morning Prayer^{5.8}

- prayers from our community, with borrowed bits from the Scriptures, the liturgies of the Iona and Northumbria communities, and elsewhere.

Bold print is said all together.

+ indicates that you may make the sign of the cross.

**+ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Invocation

Leader: Come, triune God,
Giver of life.

All: **Be near us now.**

Leader: Creator of all people,
Child of the earth,
Spirit of all time,

All: **Give ear to our words
Consider the meditations of our hearts**

Invitation

Leader: Listen, all you who are thirsty,
Come to the waters.
And you that have no money,
Come, buy and eat.

Why do you spend your money for that which
is not bread?
And your labour for that which does not
satisfy?

Incline your ear and come to me,
Listen, that you might live.

All: **We turn our hearts to You, for You are good.
Your faithfulness continues through all
generations.**

Leader: Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden
And I will give you rest.

I long to gather you together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,

All: **In all our wanderings, in light and in dark,
You are the journey and the journey's end.**

Prayer of confession and restoration

Leader: God, You have created us in your image,
Inviting us to live joyfully in relationship with
You, with others and with all of your creation.

But often we have chosen to hide,
and to protect ourselves at the expense of others.

Sometimes we are able to love those close to us
and befriend those most like ourselves.
But often we turn away from your presence in
those who differ from us or threaten us.
In our actions and in the structures we
support, we are so often derailed by
our fear, our laziness and our pride.

All: **Forgive us**

Leader: When we have kept silent,
though You asked us to speak;
when we have lashed out,
though You asked us to forgive.

All: **Renew us**

Leader: for so often we ignore
the cries of the poor and lonely;
choosing ease and convenience
over your good life;
and we trample your creation,
by deed or by neglect.

All: **Grow us in love**

Leader: for you have shown us what is good:
to act justly and love mercy,
to walk humbly with You.
But we have listened first to the leadings
of anxiety, anger and shame;
Letting ourselves be drawn away from love
and fullness of life.

All: **God, have mercy.
Our sins ensnare us.**

(We pause in silence to reflect and to prepare our hearts)

Leader: Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

All: **May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Leader: Amen.

All: **Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.**

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Hear now the words of Jesus:
Your sins are forgiven.
I give you my peace;
come and follow me.

Affirmation

Leader: As followers of Christ,
aware of our faith and our doubt,
we affirm:

All: **We believe in God,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible,
who has come in Jesus
to reconcile and make new,
who has sent the Spirit
to guide, comfort and confront God's people.**

Leader: Now renewed, our tongues are loosed to say:

All: **We believe in one Church, one broken body,
given by God
as a sign for all the earth.
We affirm the goodness of God
at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

Leader: Now, freed to respond to the call of love,
and our very lives received as gift, we say:

All: **We believe that Jesus
is worthy to be followed,
and through him we know
that in life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

Leader: Therefore, we will not fear,
 though the earth give way and the mountains
 fall into the heart of the sea,
 though our hearts grow weary
 and our best intentions fail.

All: **God, you are our hope and our strength,
 We place our trust in You.**

Scripture and reading

Reflections

Prayer and Intercession

Leader: 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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are Yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: We join with all who suffer
and ask, “How long?”

All: *(Slowly)*
**With compassion,
we remember those who endure the pain
of violence,
poverty,
illness,
loneliness,
loss,
and despair.**

Leader: God, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

*Individual prayers can be said out loud at this time.
Between prayers, the response is:*

Pray-er: God, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Invitation to communion

Leader: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who know what it is like to fail;
Come.
It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All: **To whom shall we go?**
 You give us words of eternal life
 and we have believed
 and have come to know you,
 Holy One of God.

Breaking the bread

Leader: Look,
the Body of Christ is broken
for the life of the world.
Here is Christ coming to us in bread and wine.
Take and eat.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*[All are invited to share in the bread and the wine together;
juice or gluten-free crackers available on request.]*

After the elements have been taken:

Leader: May the bread restore our strength,
giving new energy to tired limbs,
new thoughts to weary minds.
May the wine restore our souls,
giving new vision to dry spirits,
new warmth to cold hearts.

Many grains were gathered to make this bread,
many grapes were mixed to make this wine.

All: **So we who are many, and come from many places
are one in Christ.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Closing

Leader: As we see the week stretched out before us,
in all of its mystery and predictability,
we give it to You
and ask that You would walk with us
through the minutes and hours,
keeping us awake and available
to You and to each one that will cross our paths.

All: **Christ, as a light
Illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.**

Leader: The week to come is full of hope
because Jesus was crucified and has risen.
God is turning the world right-side up,
new creation has begun.

All: **Jesus, Son of God,
take us with you
wherever You go.**

Benediction

Leader: And now may the God of hope
bring you such joy and peace in believing
that you overflow with hope
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

OR

Leader: And now, may the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**+ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Please feel free to greet and spend time with each other, mindful of the
connectedness and peace that Christ has made between us.