

Service of Holy Communion

A Liturgy of Lament and Protest

Parts of this liturgy have been adapted from “The Iona Community Worship Book”.

GREETING

- 1** E te whānau a te Karaiti, family of Christ,
lift your eyes to the hills; where does your help come from?
***Our help comes from the Lord,
who made the heavens and the earth.***

Kia noho a lhowā ki a koutou. The Lord be with you.

Mā lhowā koe e manaaki. The Lord bless you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

HĪMENE or HYMN

PRAYER OF APPROACH

- 1 O God, who called all life into being,
the earth, sea, and sky are yours.
Your presence is all around us,
every atom is full of your energy.
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,
with her we yearn for justice to be done:
for creation to be freed from bondage,
for the hungry to be fed,
for captives to be released,
for your kingdom of peace to come on earth. Amen.

PRAYER OF LAMENT

Either this prayer can be read or Psalm 13, printed below.

- 1 The world is yours and everything in it.
But things are not as you intend them to be.
We can't explain it and we want you to do something about it.
Answer us, O God, in the midst of unknowing, suffering, evil, and death.
We believe, help our unbelief.
We believe, help our unbelief.
We look to you to make things right,
for you have made heaven and earth,
and in the risen Jesus we get a glimpse
of all you have planned for us and for your world.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the man of sorrows. Amen.

OR:

PSALM OF LAMENT: Psalm 13

- 1 We pray to the Lord:
***I trust in your steadfast love;
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.***

- 2 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
And have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
***I trust in your steadfast love;
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.***

- 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
And my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
***I trust in your steadfast love;
My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.***

Pause

- 1 I will sing to the Lord,
Because he has dealt bountifully with me. Amen.

READING(S) FROM SCRIPTURE

You may like to follow the reading(s) with a time of reflective silence, a brief homily, or an opportunity for sharing thoughts within the group.

INTERCESSION

- 1 In the dark night of the soul, we pray with Jesus:
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Standing with those abandoned, abused, betrayed, we pray with Jesus:
My God, my God, why have you forsaken them?
Protesting against bigotry, division, and hatred, we pray with Jesus:
My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?
Acknowledging the crying out of mother earth and the sky above,
we pray with Jesus:
My God, my God, why have you forsaken your world?
We voice our lament in the name of Jesus, the crucified One. Amen.

A short period of silence.

INVITATION

- 1 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
Come, all who are hungry and thirsty. Come and be filled.

REMEMBRANCE

- 1 Jesus knows betrayal, abandonment, suffering, and death.
We cannot explain suffering and death away,
but in this meal, we find hope
that we are not alone in the midst of our human condition.
Jesus is with us. Our life is his. His life is ours.
And so we remember the night he was betrayed.
He took bread and, giving thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
"This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”
For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
You proclaim the death of the risen Lord until he comes.

THANKSGIVING

1 Kia inoi tātou. Let us pray.

We give thanks for this meal, O God.

This meal has been shared by countless people before us,
all the way back to the first disciples who gathered with Jesus.

In this meal we give thanks that you are a God who promises to be with us.

You created the world out of love, calling us into relationship with you.

You formed an unconditional bond with the people of Israel,

freeing them from bondage, guiding them through the desert,

comforting them in exile, and shaping their life through the law and prophets,
so that they could be a reminder to the world that you are faithful.

Through Jesus, we have been invited into a new bond of love:
an expanding embrace, which will one draw the whole world in.

We don't understand why there is evil and suffering and death,

But we partake in this meal as a reminder

that you have been faithful in Jesus Christ,

that he is with us now by the Spirit,

and that we are being sustained with hope

for the day when death and evil will be no more. Amen.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine

that they open our eyes to your presence in us and with us;

that they may signify our communion with you and with one another;

and that they may be a seal in us of your covenant promise

to resurrect and renew us to your glory. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

1 Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace.

The bread we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Break the bread.

The cup we take
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Lift the cup.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Ngā taonga o te Atua mo ona pononga.

Communion is shared.

E te Reme a te Atua,
e waha atu nei i ngā hara o te ao
Tohungia mātou.

E te Reme a te Atua,
e waha atu nei i ngā hara o te ao
Tohungia mātou.

E te Reme a te Atua,
e waha atu nei i ngā hara o te ao
Tukua mai ki a mātou tou rangimārie.

Ko tēnei taro e whatia nei
ko te whakakotahitanga
o te Tinana o te Karaiti.

Ko tēnei kapu,
ko te whakakotahitanga
o ngā toto o te Karaiti.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

1 Kia tau te rangimārie o te Karaiti ki runga i a koutou.
May the peace of Christ be with you always. ***And also with you.***

CLOSING PRAYER

- 2 In the end as in the beginning, God is God:
Loved by us, wanted by us, praised by us, served by us;
Filling the people with the gifts of the Spirit,
Making them whole for the good of the earth.
For bread and wine, this place and this time,
Thanks be to God.
For the peace we are promised which the world won't destroy,
Thanks be to God.
For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,
Thanks be to God.

HĪMENE or HYMN

BLESSING

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa,
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti,
me te aroha o te Atua,
me te whiwhingātahitanga
ki te Wairua Tapu,
ake, ake, ake Amine.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all,
now and forever, Amen.