



Lutheran Church of the Foothills,  
Tucson Arizona  
March 22, 2023

Iona Evening Prayer 1  
Based on a liturgy from  
Isle of Iona, Scotland

The Rev. Stewart McDonald, Leader

### **Chant for Centering and Lighting of Candles**

Come, Holy Spirit	<b>Come, Holy Spirit</b>
Come, Holy Spirit	<b>Come, Holy Spirit</b>
Maranatha	<b>Maranatha</b>
Come, Lord, come	<b>Come, Lord, come</b>

### **Opening Responses**

We are met in the presence of God;  
With angels in the highest heaven;  
With the saints of every age;  
With the Church throughout the world;  
By children and babes at the breast;  
With drums, sitars, and trumpets;  
In barrios and basilicas;  
And here with our hearts and our voices;  
We are met in the presence of God;

**We do not meet alone.**  
**We gather to worship the Lord.**  
**We gather to worship the Lord.**  
**We gather to worship the Lord.**  
**God's holy name is praised.**  
**We do not meet alone.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous God, you gave us our voices, no two the same, no finer instruments with which to praise you. **We give you thanks, O God.**

You gave us words and music, peculiar gifts, with which to wound or wonder, bore or bless, disable or inspire. **We give you thanks, O God.**

In your church you have gathered us. In your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have made a place for each of us.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, and prepare us for the life of the world in which you are also praised.  
**Amen.**

## Song *God Beyond Knowledge* (Tune: *Be Thou My Vision*, ELW 793)

- 1 God beyond knowledge, yet close to us here,  
Our touchstone, our lodestar in faith and in fear;  
Your presence we know in the dark before dawn  
As courage is kindled and hope is reborn.
- 2 God with limits, yet sharing our flesh,  
You speak for the silenced, released the oppressed  
And call us to follow, in all things to prove  
The tools of our Spirit, the signs of your love.
- 3 Lord, to your purpose our living we pledge:  
To go beyond comfort and stand at life's edge,  
To love and to live without safety, and so  
To shape and inhabit your Kingdom of hope.

Music: SLANE, Irish Traditional; words: Pat Bennett

## The Word of God

We read in the book of ... chapter ... verses ...

<Reading>

This is God's Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflections

### Profession of Faith

**We believe in God around us, the Maker, who creates and sustains us and all that is.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, who came to live among us and to die on the cross so that we would be free from sin and know the joy of abundant life.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit, who is the power of God at work in us and through us, who calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with gifts, and sanctifies us and the whole church in one true faith in Jesus Christ.**

### Prayers

Eternal God, whom our words may cradle but never contain, we thank you for all the sound and silence and color and symbol which through the centuries have helped the worship of your Church to be relevant and real. Here we pause to offer our prayers to you either with our voices or silently in our hearts:

Let us remember someone who helped us come to faith, or by singing us songs or telling stories, or by inviting us in when we felt distant, or by praying for us without being asked. <pause>

Let us remember the preachers, the readers, the musicians, the leaders whose sensitivity and skill have helped us to grow in faith and enjoy worshiping you. <pause>

Let us remember those who serve you outside the sanctuary. <pause>

Let us remember people who cannot pray and struggle to believe. <pause>

Let us pray for the renewal of the Church, beginning with ourselves. <pause>

O God,

**Reshape us until in generosity, in faith, and in expectation that the best is yet to come, we are truly Christ-like. Make us passionate followers of Jesus rather than passive supporters. Make our church a cell of radical discipleship and a signpost to heaven for all who pass by; then, in us, through us, and – if need be – despite of us, let your kingdom come.**

**Amen.**

**Song** *Christ Be Beside Me* (Tune: Bunessan/Morning Has Broken, ELW 556)  
(Words based on Saint Patrick's Breastplate)

**1 Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart.**

**Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.**

**2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.**

**Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.**

**3 Christ be in all hearts, thinking about me. Christ be on all tongues, telling of me.**

**Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.**

Traditional Gaelic melody; Words by: James Quinn, SJ

### **Closing Responses**

From where we are to where we need to be,

**Christ be beside us.**

From what we are to what you can make of us,

**Christ be before us.**

From what we don't do to what you call, expect and empower us to do,

**Christ be beneath us.**

From the streets of this neighborhood to the gates of heaven,

**Christ be above us.**

Surround us with your presence, inspire us with your purpose, confirm us in your love.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

On your heads and your homes, be the blessing of God.

In your coming and your going, be the peace of God.

In your life and your believing, be the love of God.

At your ending and your new beginning, be the arms of God to welcome you.

**Amen!**

Let us go in peace.