

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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**Morning Prayer, from the Iona Abbey Worship Book
Tuesday of Holy Week, March 30, 2021
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Leader**

Opening Responses

The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.
How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If Christ's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud.
Open our lips, O God,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Confession

Holy God, Maker of all,
Have mercy on us.
Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Spirit, Breath of life,
Have mercy on us.
Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

**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.**
May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
And the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen.

Prayer for God's Help

Move among us, O God; give us life:

Let your people rejoice in you.

Make our hearts clean within us:

Renew us in mind and in spirit.

Give us again the joy of your help:

With your spirit of freedom sustain us.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

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 for ever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

With the whole church...

**We affirm that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere...

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation...

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
the unfolding purposes of God,
forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

Psalm 71:1-14 (said responsively)

- 1) In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.
- 2) **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; ***
incline your ear to me and save me.
- 3) Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.

- 4) **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, ***
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.
- 5) For you are my hope, O Lord God, *
my confidence since I was young.
- 6) **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;**
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.
- 7) I have become a portent to many; *
but you are my refuge and my strength.
- 8) **Let my mouth be full of your praise ***
and your glory all the day long.
- 9) Do not cast me off in my old age; *
forsake me not when my strength fails.
- 10) **For my enemies are talking against me, ***
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.
- 11) They say, "God has forsaken him;
go after him and seize him; *
because there is none who will save."
- 12) **O God, be not far from me; ***
come quickly to help me, O my God.
- 13) Let those who set themselves against me be put to shame and be disgraced; *
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and reproach.
- 14) **But I shall always wait in patience, ***
and shall praise you more and more.

The Reading for the Day

This morning's reading comes from the Gospel of John.

Listen now for the Word of God.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Living God, may they not fail you,
Nor we fail them.

O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails,
purchased our whole salvation,
wield well your tools in the workshop of your world,
so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench.
May here be so fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand.
We ask it for your own name's sake.
Amen.

Closing Responses

This is the day that God has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
We will not offer to God
Offerings that cost us nothing.
Go in peace to love and to serve;
We will seek peace and pursue it.
In the name of the Trinity of Love,
God in community, holy and one. Amen.