

Telling Encounters: Liturgy

Revd Dr Hannah Lewis will lead the service in BSL with voice-over. Hannah will teach the two signs used. The first sign is for 'amen' and is also for 'agree' - so we say Amen as Yes, I agree. The second is the colloquial sign used for 'God's own for the world'. We are all invited to copy as we feel comfortable.

We are also invited to bring 4 small objects to use in our prayers. These might be tea lights, candles, small stones, pieces of paper etc. During the silence after each prayer we can respond by lighting a candle, placing a small stone, writing or drawing on a piece of paper etc

All = Leader in BSL with voice-over. We all join in BSL or speaking (with microphone on mute)

Welcome

Opening responses

Leader We come in this service to God, bringing our stories, our lives, and our selves

All Amen

Leader We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus, and who travels with us through our daily lives

All Amen

Leader We come with our faith, our doubts, our hopes, our fears.

All Amen

Leader: We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come, and God will never turn us away.

All Alleluia, Amen

(Based on Iona Community service of prayer for healing)

Opening Prayer

**All Loving God,
Together, we gather to share worship and fellowship,
in all our diversity, and as one people.
Enable us to continue in our call to welcome all, love all,
and fully include all in our churches and communities.
Guide our steps as we journey
towards and alongside you,
giving us courage when we falter or turn away.**

**Allow us to see in each person your glory
and your image,
so that we can encourage one another
in all that lies ahead,
in friendship and hope.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen**

(Ann Memmott, 2019)

Song

Take, O take me as I am,
Summon out what I can be
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Take, O take me as I am,
Let me hear you call my name,
Set my soul ablaze and
never quench the flame.

Take, O take me as I am,
Let me with your glory shine
In my weakness show your strength,
your life in mine.

Take, O take me as I am,
Let your hope in me abide
Grant me faith to take each step,
your love my guide.

Take, O take me as I am,
Draw me into your embrace,
All I have I give to your
transforming grace.

(v. 1 © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community; v2-5 Ally Barrett)

Reading

Matthew 28 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Inclusive affirmation of faith

Leader	I believe in God Who made everything in heaven and on earth Including me; my name is ... Made in the image of God.
Reader 1	My name is ... Made in the image of God.
Reader 2	My name is ... Made in the image of God.
Reader 3	My name is ... Made in the image of God.
Reader 1	I believe in the only Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was born, lived and died for the sake of us all; who knew what it meant to be despised and rejected, mocked and ignored for who he was.
Reader 2	I believe Jesus was killed, then rose again, and by his resurrection I have been saved from the bondage of sin and death; from the bondage of oppression and a world that wants me to pretend to be what I am not.
Reader 3	I believe in the Holy Spirit of God, who breathes life into each one of us. who calls us forward when we would hang back; who empowers me to believe in who I am and in what I can do.
Leader	I believe in a church where I can be myself, where all are equal and where this Good News of Jesus Christ is challenged, expanded and made real in its worship and in its work, now and for ever.
All	Amen <i>(Hannah Lewis 1999)</i>

Prayers

There will be 4 short prayers, each followed by silence. During the silence after each prayer we are invited to respond by lighting a candle, placing a small stone, writing or drawing on a piece of paper etc

Prayer 1-3	Let us pray for
Prayer 4	Let us pray for ourselves, that we might learn to value who God has created us to be, and use the gifts God has given us to serve the Kingdom

Leader/ 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.
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.

Music *Quiet music & images as we offer our prayers and lives to God*

Act of commitment

Leader Hold out your hands, know their touch and their tenderness
All **Gods own for the world**

Leader Hold out your feet, know you have a path and a direction
All **Gods own for the world**

Leader Touch your heart, know its fire and its love
All **Gods own for the world**

Leader Hold onto the cross – God’s Son and our saviour
All **God’s own for the world.**

Leader This is God’s world We will serve God in it
All **Amen**

Leader May God bless us, may God keep us always,
And lead our lives with love.
All **Amen.**

(Adapted from Iona)