**Morning Prayer**

*- 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,

 Son 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;

 sometimes we have put ourselves as gods before You and others.

*All:* **God, have mercy.**

 **Our sins are as scarlet.**

***(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, made white as snow, 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.**

*[We invite you to take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. You are welcome to say "The body of Christ (broken for you)" and "The blood of Christ (shed for you)" as you pass it on.]*

*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.