

## Thursday Morning Prayer – Lent 2023

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the furthest limits of the sea,  
Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
(Psalm 139:9-10)

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

*Silence*

*Opening Prayer*

Be near us, O God, as we journey together. Be present in the challenges of our everyday existence. Be our guide for all that we may face. We invite your blessed assistance in this time of Lenten introspection. Be the source of hope and meaning for our lives. For we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

*Silence*

**Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

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

*Assurance of Pardon - Psalm 32:5*

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm*

*Gospel*

*Acclamation*

Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life

We've come to believe and to know

That You are the Holy One of God *repeat*

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*Silence*

*We share how the Spirit speaks to us*

*Response 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 for ever at work in ourselves and the world.

*Iona Abbey Worship Book*

*Our Prayers*

Divine Creator,  
when you first stirred the waters  
and breathed into the soil of the earth,  
**all life was able to flourish.**

From birth to death, there was enough.  
**Creatures and creations lived in cooperation.**

The land. The water. The animals. The people.  
**All part of the family of God.**

But as evil and greed permeated the hearts of humanity,  
so began the interruption of Love's natural rhythms.  
**We distanced ourselves from our creaturely neighbors,  
and began to see the land as little more than fields of profit.**

We have made ourselves strangers to our own home,  
forgetting our place among the whole of things.

**Renew us, O God,  
to right-relationship with the earth,**  
with our own bodies born from soil and water,  
with our neighbors who bear the worst consequences of our consumption and negligence.  
**May we be the ones who mend what has been destroyed,  
who confront the powerful who plunder and leave barren,  
who desires transformation of our own hearts and practices,  
that life's abundance may be restored upon the earth,  
and all creatures and creations may rest in your care.**

*Enfleshed, 2020, Alt.*

*Benediction*

Now may the God of peace give us peace at all times in all ways. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**