

## Liturgy for Reflection and Prayers, 16 August (Trinity 10)

*(Adapted from Iona Community Morning worship)*

All you works of God, all you mighty heavens;  
all you angels of light, all you saints in glory -  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

All you heavenly bodies, sun and moon and stars;  
all you earthly weathers - wind and rain and thunder-  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

Fire and searing heat, ice and deadly cold;  
light and deepest dark, endless nights and days —  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

Mountains and high hills, forests and tall trees:  
countless flowers and plants, waterfalls and streams -  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

Whales beneath the seas, birds throughout the skies;  
all that leaps or crawls, creatures wild and tame —  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

People, young and old, children, women, men;  
all who do heaven's will, all who love the Lord —  
**WORSHIP AND PRAISE YOUR MAKER.**

*Let us pray.*

Eternal God,  
you do not need our praise.

The world itself tells of your glory ... sunrise and birdsong, the ruggedness of landscape, the randomness of rain, beauty for the eye, nourishment for the body, music for the soul ... these all speak of your goodness these honour your name.

You do not need our praise.

Other places can do it better with finer music or fewer words, with centuries of tradition or buildings of rare beauty.

Other people can do it better, where two or three are gathered who live in poverty or under threat, and who, despite all that oppresses them, rejoice to be called your own

What can we add

by way of magnificence or testimony when these are more eloquent?

You do not need our praise, but we need to praise you.

It is the yearning, the restlessness which you have planted in us.

It is our desire for a true home and unconditional acceptance that brings us here.  
All the rumours we have heard about you are true: you love, you forgive, you transform.  
And you know us.

You perceive what in us needs to be loved, what in us needs to be forgiven, and what in us  
needs to be changed.

We need no more words, just penitence.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US.**

Christ, have mercy on us.

**CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US**

These are the words of Jesus.

They are strong and true, so believe them:

‘I have come that you may have life in all its fullness.’

‘Go in peace; your sins are forgiven: Come, each one, and follow me.’

Now, God, help us to live as a forgiven people - visibly different, gloriously free, for Jesus’  
sake.

**AMEN.**

## **Psalm 67**

God be merciful to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us.  
<sup>2</sup> That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
<sup>4</sup> Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
For You shall judge the people righteously,  
And govern the nations on earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
<sup>6</sup> Then the earth shall yield her increase;  
God, our own God, shall bless us.  
<sup>7</sup> God shall bless us,  
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

## Reading – Isaiah 56

This is what the Lord says:

‘Maintain justice  
and do what is right,  
for my salvation is close at hand  
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one who does this –  
the person who holds it fast,  
who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,  
and keeps their hands from doing any evil.’

<sup>3</sup> Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say,  
‘The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.’  
And let no eunuch complain,  
‘I am only a dry tree.’

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Lord says:  
‘To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,  
who choose what pleases me  
and hold fast to my covenant –  
<sup>5</sup> to them I will give within my temple and its walls  
a memorial and a name  
better than sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
that will endure for ever.

<sup>6</sup> And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord  
to minister to him,  
to love the name of the Lord,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it  
and who hold fast to my covenant –  
<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and give them joy in my house of prayer.  
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house will be called  
a house of prayer for all nations.’

<sup>8</sup> The Sovereign Lord declares –  
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:  
‘I will gather still others to them  
besides those already gathered.’

## Reflection

*Let us pray.*

For the healing of bodies we pray: for a holy healing which deals with both pain and its causes; for healing which leads to a new love for the body, a new care for the body; and also, where mortal life wearies for the end, for the healing of death.  
Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

For the healing of minds we pray; for a holy healing which deals with memories as well as madness, abuse as well as anxiety, depression as well as dementia, stigma as well as the suffering of a tortured mind; and also, where people have been hurt by religion, for the healing of faith.  
Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

For the healing of relationships we pray: for a holy healing which will not make things nice, but will make things possible: for the mending of love which has been fractured, for the cherishing of those who are deemed abnormal, and for the including of the excluded.  
Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

For the healing of our world we pray: for a holy healing, for the tearing down of cruel barriers and the building of bridges for peace; for the ending of needless exploitation and the growth of reverence for our planet; for replacing what the wealthy want with an abundance of what the world needs.  
Lord, hear us.

**LORD, GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.**

So we pray,  
so we trust, so we will do in Jesus' name.

**AMEN.**

Prepare the way of the Lord;  
**MAKE A PATH FOR OUR GOD IN THE DESERT.**

Each valley shall be exalted;  
**EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE LAID LOW.**

The crooked shall be made straight;  
**ROUGH PLACES SHALL BECOME PLAIN.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
**ALL PEOPLE SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER.**

This is the will of the Lord:  
**GOD'S PROMISE SHALL BE FULFILLED.**

*The Blessing*