

Liturgy for Reflection and Prayers, 17 January (Epiphany 2)

(Adapted from Iona Community Morning Worship)

Opening responses

Throughout this day and the coming week:

May God be among us

AMEN.

May Christ be beside us

AMEN.

May the Spirit be within us

AMEN.

May we, as God's people,

be at one with the saints in heaven and live in harmony with the Blessed Three, to whom be praise and glory for ever.

AMEN.

Let us pray.

Each thing we have received –

FROM GOD IT CAME.

Each thing we enjoy -

FROM GOD IT COMES.

Each thing we pray for –

FROM GOD IT WILL BE GIVEN.

God of life,

you are the source of all goodness and the satisfaction of all our desires.

Our understanding of you is small; increase it.

Our desire to do your will is weak; enliven it

The seed you have planted has yet to bear fruit; ripen it.

But first, create in us clean hearts as, in your sight, we unburden ourselves of guilt, of anger, of fear, of pride, of hardness of heart of weakness of intention.

Jesus, Son of the Father,

HAVE MERCY UPON US.

Jesus, Saviour of the World,

MAKE PEACE WITHIN US.

Christ, King of Glory,

BE WITH US AND FOR US WHEREVER LIFE TAKES US.

In the common path of our calling whether it be easy or uneasy to tread, whether it be bright or dark to follow, let your perfect guidance protect us.

**BE A SHIELD AGAINST ALL THAT MIGHT DECEIVE US, BE
A HEALER FOR ALL THAT MIGHT HARM US,
BE A WITNESS OF ALL THAT MIGHT TROUBLE US, BE
A FRIEND TO ALL WHO ARE DEAR TO US,**

Psalm 139

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

² You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.

³ You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

⁵ You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.

¹³ For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvellous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.

A reading from Holy Scripture

1 Samuel 3

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' [a] and he said, 'Here I am!' 5 and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. 6 The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. 8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

[11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. 12 On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,[b] and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' 17 Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. 21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.]

Let your Word live within us, faithful God

**DAY BY DAY, NIGHT BY NIGHT,
IN OUR THINKING, OUR SPEAKING,
OUR DOING, OUR BELIEVING.**

Reflection

Intercessions

Collect for the day

O great and generous God,
graciously set your eye on those who know their need of you through pain,
through trouble, through grief, through their own fault.

Nurse the weak,
BANDAGE THE BROKEN,
CONSOLE THE DESOLATE, FORGIVE THE PENITENT.

O Christ who shared our flesh,
graciously set your eye on those who have no need for you through pride,
through disappointment, through doubt,
through the failure of false friends.

Soften the hardened heart,
CONFRONT THE ARROGANT WILL,
UNCOVER HIDDEN DEPTHS AND THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE.

O Holy Spirit, breath of God, move among us.
Open us to the beauty of the earth so that we may become its servants.
Open us to the wonder of life that we may recognise an angel at every corner.
Open to us the storehouse of your grace and we will be made new for Jesus' sake.
AMEN.

Closing responses

Now may God who brought us
into the joyous light of this new day, bring us to the guiding light of eternity.
GOD ABOVE US, GOD BENEATH US,
GOD BEHIND US, GOD BEFORE US,
GOD IN QUIETNESS, GOD IN DANGER,
GOD IN HEART OF FRIEND AND STRANGER.

The Blessing