



EVENING PRAYER IONA STYLE
EASTER SEASON
As Night Falls



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer Iona style,
with St George the Martyr Wash Common and
St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

This evening prayer service is written in the style and spiritual purview of the Celtic tradition. A tradition steeped in imagination, symbolism and of God's glory in all of creation.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as part of the Eastertide season. The prayers are very simple to follow, and there will be a short reflection too.

Front Cover Image. Iona Abbey Cloister. Heritage Images/Getty Images

Rear Cover Image. Icon of St Columba of Iona (d.597)



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The Greeting

The officiant says:

In the beginning,
When it was very dark,
God said 'Let there be light'

And there was light.

The sign of light– a candle is lit

Let the darkness of night surround us,
let light and warmth gather us
and let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the tools be stored away,
let the work be over and done
and let God's the people say Amen.

Amen.

Let the winds blow wild around us,
But let hearts be glad and minds be calm
And let God's people say Amen.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving

Thanks be to you O Christ,
For the many gifts you have bestowed on us,
Each day and night, each sea and land,
Each weather fair, each calm, each wild.

Each night may we remember your mercy
given so gently and generously.

**Each thing we have received,
From you it came;
Each thing for which we hope,
From your love it will come;
Each thing we enjoy,
It is of your bounty;
Each thing we ask,
Comes of your disposing.**

O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,
**Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear,
May be between ourselves and this world. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness from our hearts.

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our faults.
With a true heart, in full assurance of Faith;

**God of Mercy,
We acknowledge that we have sinned.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
In the light of Christ our Lord. Amen**

May the God love
bring us back to himself
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

The Word of God

First Scripture Reading from Ephesians 5.1-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Renounce Pagan Ways. But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them. For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.’

Song

Our Song in the night (lyrics on screen)

Bilfrost Arts Music. Isaac Wardell

Gospel Reading *John 12.44-end*

Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak.

And I know that his commandment is eternal life.

What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

Short Reflective Homily

Silence is kept.

When the lights are on...

When the lights are on
and the house is full
and laughter is easy and all is well...
Behold I stand at the door and knock.

When the lights are low
and the house is still
and the talk is intense
and the air is full of wondering...
Behold I stand at the door and knock.

When the lights are off
and the house is sad
and the voice troubled
and nothing seems right
Behold I stand at the door and knock.

And tonight,
Always tonight,
As if there were no other people,
No other house,
No other door...
Behold I stand at the door and knock

Come, Lord Jesus be our guest,
stay with us for the day is ending
with friend, with stranger,
with neighbour, and the well known ones,
be among us tonight
**For the doors of our house we open
And the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

Iona Community prayer

Song

Brother, sister, let me serve you (lyrics on screen)

Royal School of Church Music

Prayers of Intercession

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Collect for today

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Closing Prayer

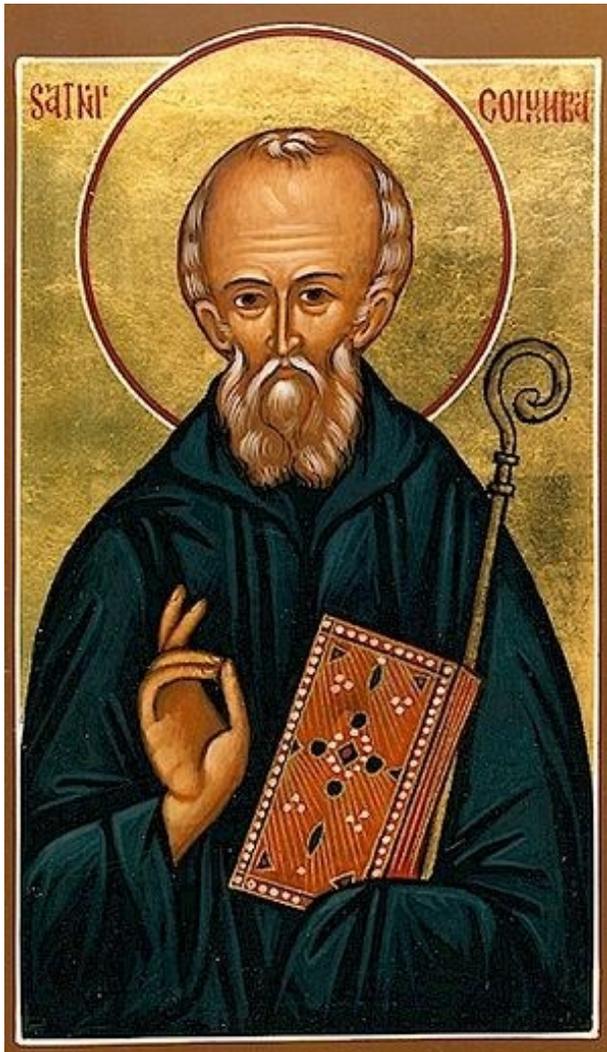
Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us Lord, it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your glory. Amen.

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