



# Mary, Martha & Lazarus

Wednesday Worship

29<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

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Iona Abbey  
Evening Liturgy  
adapted for  
Mary, Martha &  
Lazarus  
July 29 2020

The people gather

Welcome and introduction

Opening Prayer

Opening Responses

Leader     This is the time  
              when light fades  
              and shadows lengthen  
              and sounds are subdued –  
              all as God intended.

**All            Amen.**

This is the time  
when bodies relax,  
minds unwind,  
and tiredness comes –  
all as God intended.

**Amen**

This is the time  
when others greet the morning  
while we meet the night,  
and the world continues to sing,  
in all the accents of creation,  
a love-song to its Maker.

**Blessed be God's Name.**

**Reading: Luke 10.38-42**

Leader Come, brother Jesus, be our guest,  
stay with us for day is ending.

Bring to this place your poverty,  
**for then shall we be rich.**  
Bring to this place your pain,  
**that in sharing it, we may also share your joy.**  
Bring to this place your understanding of us,  
**that we may be freed to learn more of you.**  
Bring to this place your Holy Spirit,  
**that we and all things might be made new.**

With friend, with stranger,  
with the unknown and well known ones  
be among us tonight,  
**for the doors of this house are open,  
and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

### Section 1: Honest Rationale

Leader In the world many things happen at night:  
people travel, people meet,  
people have secret conversations,  
people lie awake restless,  
people sleep through exhaustion.

And this has always been so;  
holy books bear witness to it.

### Section 2: Guilt

Leader     What if the darkness covers us  
              and the day around us turns to night?  
              Darkness is not too dark for God  
              to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray

You never sleep, God.  
You are always awake, always watching,  
always willing the world and its people  
to turn in the right direction.

So tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep  
because of illness,  
or worry,  
or fear;  
or for reasons they cannot understand.

*(pause)*

All           God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And tonight will you be close to those who wait  
patiently or impatiently  
for a birth  
or a death,  
for a visit,  
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

*(pause)*

God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,  
who look for inspiration,  
who long to be with the one or the ones they love,  
who hope to recognise the right time  
when they can say 'I'm sorry,'  
or 'I love you,'  
or even 'Enough is enough.'

*(pause)*

God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And God, listen to us  
as we share with you  
whatever joys or sorrows,  
discoveries or questions  
we will take with us into the night.

*(pause)*

God be near us,  
**God be near us.**

Into your hands we commit ourselves –  
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –  
for all things come from you  
and are best kept in your care.

**Amen**

### Section 3: Reconciliation

**Closing Responses**

Leader For the day now done  
All **thanks be to God.**

For the rest before us  
**thanks be to God.**

Because God never sleeps  
so that we can,  
**thanks be to God.**

But before the day is done,  
let God's holy name be praised;  
and let God's people say Amen.  
**Amen.**

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