



Celtic Service

**April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

To Thee, O Newly Risen Lord

Riggs

If I say “Surely, the darkness shall cover me
and the light around me become night”
even the darkness is not dark to you.
The night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:11-12

Silence

Be still and aware of God’s presence within and around you.

Lighting the Trinity Candles

Pastor Debra

We will light a light in the name of the Maker.

God who created fire.

We will light a light in the name of Christ.

Jesus, whose love warms our hearts.

We will light a light in the name of the Spirit.

The Holy One, the fire of life

Opening Prayer

Meghan Walker

**I am bending my knee in the eye of the God who created me,
In the eye of the Son who died for me,
In the eye of the Spirit who moves me in love and desire.
For the many gifts you have bestowed on me, each day and night, each sea and land, each fair
weather, each calm, each wild, thanks be to you, O God. Amen.**

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Meghan Walker

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

-Ancient Irish Blessing

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

“When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation.”

Holy God, Maker of all –

Lord forgive us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor –

Lord forgive us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life –

Lord forgive us.

Let us confess in silence our faults and admit our frailty.

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness; to the ways we wound
our lives, to 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.

Ministry of Music

Musical Reflection Time

The Prayers

Pastor Debra

Guide me in your truth and teach me, God, for it is you who saves me.

We pray for peace in our world: that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all people who are working to build peace in their communities: that they may inspire others by their example and be strengthened to carry on, even in the hardest times.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all people who have been affected by violence as they rebuild their lives: that they may find it in their hearts to move forwards in peace and forgiveness.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community: that we may be bearers of your peace.

God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit; those who have died; and those who care for them, that all may find the peace of God's loving embrace.

God, hear our prayer.

I invite us to add our own prayers and thanksgivings.

Let us pray for ourselves,

that we may release our own worries, trust in God's love, receive God's forgiveness, and be instruments of God's healing and peace. Amen.

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

Amen.

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us

God in Community, Holy and One, we lift our prayers to you as Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Holy One in heaven, holy is your Name. Your reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and help us forgive as we have been forgiven. In the time of trial, lead us into life, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Be present, Spirit of God, within us, your dwelling place and home, that this house may be one where all darkness is penetrated by your light, all troubles calmed by your peace, all evil redeemed by your love, all pain transformed by your suffering, and all dying glorified in your risen life.

Amen.

A MOMENT OF PEACE

You are invited to close your eyes, meditate, pray, reflect, or simply sit in silence.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Meghan Walker

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

Meghan Walker

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Sermon

A Moment of Peace

Pastor Debra

An Affirmation of Faith from the Iona Community

Meghan Walker

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and peace; and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Meghan Walker

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Here Faith Abides

Peterson

*Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Meghan Walker

O God, you unconditionally share your only son with all who believe in your name. On this holy day, receive our offerings as an affirmation of our commitment to be your faithful disciples. Strengthen our ability to be gifted stewards of your created world. We pray in the name of the Resurrected One, Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Amen. John

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Hymn

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707

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Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. The peace of God be over you to shelter you, under you to uphold you, about you to protect you, behind you to direct you, ever with you to save you. **The peace of all peace be ours this day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Choral Benediction

He Lives

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives?

He lives within my heart.

Postlude

Voices Exultant

Nolte

BE THOU MY VISION

*Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

HYMN OF PROMISE

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;*

*in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*