

Welcome to this Service of Evening Prayer following an Iona Liturgy

*You are most welcome to either simply watch or listen to the Service
Or, if you wish, join in with the responses which are printed **in bold***

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

And there was light.

In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

And what God was, the Word was.

When the time was right, God sent the Son.

He came among us; he was one of us.

This is the time
When light fades
And shadows lengthen
And sounds are subdued -
All as God intended

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

We listen to the singing of "Before the ending of the day"

Come brother Jesus be our guest
Stay with us for the day is ending

Bring to this place your poverty

For then we shall 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

In the world many things happen at night:

People travel, people meet
People have secret conversations
People lie awake restless
People sleep through exhaustion
People lie awake in despair

And this has always been so
Our holy books bear witness to it
Let us hear readings from the Bible

Reading(s) from the Bible (See separate .PDF file)

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

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.
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.
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.'

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 this night.

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

We listen to the singing of the "Nunc dimittis"

**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.**

For the day now done

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

*Based on the Iona Abbey Worship Book (2017) and
Stages on the Way (Wild Goose Worship Group) (2000)*