

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Alleluia! Christ is Arisen

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from the Iona Community, *Iona Abbey Worship Book*)

We gather in your presence, God,
in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.
We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,
and you know by experience what human life is like.
We come with our faith and with our doubts;
we come with our hopes and with our fears.
We come as we are, because you have invited us;
and you have promised never to turn us away.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG 243

Be Not Afraid (sing three times)

(see end of bulletin)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING

John 20.24-31

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

Psalm 96

Robert King

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(an excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MOMENT OF SELF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

(see end of bulletin)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 257

The Risen Christ

(see end of bulletin)

BENEDICTION

May the peace of the Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

POSTLUDE

Be Not Afraid

243

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The second system of music is identical to the first, consisting of two staves in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The melody and lyrics are repeated.

Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as "Nebojte se." The English version uses the language of the angel's greeting to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998
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BE NOT AFRAID
4.4.8.D

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

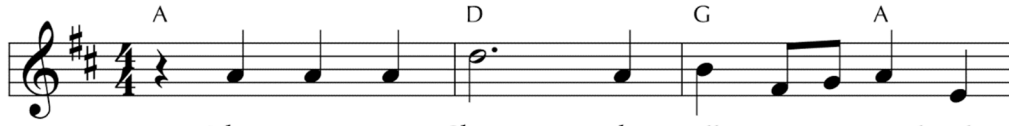
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

The Risen Christ

257



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



feet from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y
 side, breathes out his Spir - it on them to a -
 hand the bread for those who fail to un - der -
 stand with the op - pressed in this and ev - ery



street, un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear, and
 bide whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve; new
 stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears, en -
 land, till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be, re -



speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This perceptive hymn centers on Christ's post-Resurrection appearances described in John 20:19-29 and Luke 24:13-48. The first three stanzas are shaped by the wounded body parts: feet, side, hand; the fourth prays for such woundedness in the witness of Christ's body, the Church.