



Evening Prayer



Wild Goose Worship Group
(Iona Community)

Opening responses

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,
you too were tired
when day was done;
you met your friends at evening time.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,
you too enjoyed
when nights drew on;
you told your tales at close of day.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,
you kindled faith
when lamps were low;
you opened scriptures,
broke the bread,
and shed your light
as darkness fell.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.
Meet us here.**

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

You broke down the barriers
when you crept in beside us.
For in Jesus ... the smiling Jesus,
the story-telling Jesus,
the controversial Jesus,
the annoying Jesus,
the loving and forgiving Jesus,
your hands touched all, and touched us,
showing how in Christ
there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female:

**All: All are one in Jesus Christ
and for this we praise you.**

Leader: You opened our eyes,
to see how the hands of the rich were empty
and the hearts of the poor were full.
You dared to take ... the widow's mite,
the child's loaves,
the babe at the breast,
and in these simple things
to point out the path to your Kingdom.
You said, 'Follow me!',
for on our own we could never discover
that in Christ
there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female:

**All: All are one in Jesus Christ
and for this we praise you.**

Leader: You gave us hands to hold:
black hands and white hands,
African hands and Asian hands,
the clasping hands of lovers,

and the reluctant hands of those
who don't believe they are worth holding.
And when we wanted to shake our fist,
you still wanted to hold our hand,
because in Christ
there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female:

**All: All are one in Jesus Christ
and for this we praise you.**

Leader: Here in the company
of the neighbour whom we know
and the stranger in our midst,
and the self from whom we turn,
we ask to love as Jesus loved.
Make this the place and time, good Lord,
when heaven and earth merge into one,
and we in word and flesh can grasp
that in Christ
there is neither Jew nor Gentile,
neither male nor female:

**All: All are one in Jesus Christ
and for this we praise you. Amen**

Word of God

a portion of scripture may be read, ending with:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

*A few words may be said about the reading, a time for silent reflection or
a discussion between congregation members may be appropriate.*

Prayers

After each category, anyone may offer a name or short prayer for those brought to mind. Each can be followed by a response, such as:

Leader: Lord, draw near,
All: Lord, draw near and stay

or

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Let us say a prayer for those who need to be remembered tonight:

Those who have made the news headlines today because of what they have done or said ...

Those who have been brought to our attention through a meeting or conversation ...

Those who are in hospital, in care, or in a place which is strange to them ...

Those in whose family, marriage or close relationship, there is stress or a break-up ...

Those who are waiting for a birth, or a death, or news which will affect their lives ...

Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who believes in them ...

Those whose pain or potential
we should not forget to share with God tonight...

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer
and will be faithful to your promise to answer us.

When our eyes open again,
may they do so
not to end our devotions,
but to expect your kingdom,
for Jesus' sake.

All: Amen

Leader: May God bless us
in our sleep with rest,
in our dreams with vision,
in our waking with a calm mind,
in our soul with the friendship of the Holy Spirit
this night and every night.

All: Amen

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