

# THE BOURNE VALLEY BENEFICE

## NIGHT PRAYER

13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 - YEAR C – PALM SUNDAY

### WELCOME

*Welcome to this service of Night Prayer for Palm Sunday. Although our service does not completely follow the traditional form of Compline, it is intended as a service to complete the day, before going into the silence of the night – so it will be a quieter service than usual and will end with silence after the closing prayer.*

*Our opening and closing responses are drawn from patterns of worship at Iona and our prayers include the Prayer of St Ephrem which comes to us from the Eastern Orthodox tradition where it is a regular part of the Lenten prayer cycle. Our act of penitence this evening is a prayer based on Psalm 51. Microphones are muted for the service but please join with the words in bold type as we turn to our opening responses.*

### Opening responses

Let the light fall warm and red on the rock,<sup>1</sup>  
let the birds sing their evening song  
and let God's people say Amen.

**Amen**

Let the tools be stored away,  
let the work be over and done  
and let God's people say Amen.

**Amen**

Let the flowers close and the stars appear  
let hearts be glad and minds be calm  
and let God's people say Amen.

**Amen**

### PENITENCE

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
**according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.**

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<sup>1</sup> From Iona Community: *A Wee Worship Book*, 1989

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities  
**and cleanse us from our sin.**

Against you, you alone, have we sinned and done evil in your sight  
**Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us.**

Do not cast us away from your presence,  
**and do not take your Holy Spirit from us.**

Restore to us the joy of your salvation  
**and sustain in us a willing spirit.**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouths will declare your praise.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us.**

Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;  
give us the sorrow that heals and the joy that praises  
and restore by grace your own image within us,  
that we may take our place among your people;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

## ***PSALM 118***<sup>2</sup>

It is good to give thanks to God;  
**God's goodness will last for ever.**

Open the gates of righteousness  
that I may praise my Maker.  
**Open the gates of righteousness  
and let God's servant in.**

I thank you, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

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<sup>2</sup> In the translation given in *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

**The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.**

This is the work of God;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.

It is good to give thanks to God;  
**God's goodness will last for ever.**

This is the day that God has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Deliver us, God, we pray;  
supply our deepest needs.**

Those who come believing  
are blessed in the house of God.

**Light has shone on our darkness:  
celebrate this in the house of prayer.**

You are my God, I give you thanks;  
offering praise and worship.

It is good to give thanks to God;  
**God's goodness will last for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## ***READING***

### ***Isaiah 5.1-7***

Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
He dug it and cleared it of stones,

and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

*Gospel reading – Luke 20.9-19*

He began to tell the people this parable: 'A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, "What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him." But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, "This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours." So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.' When they heard this, they said, 'Heaven forbid!' But he looked at them and said, 'What then does this text mean: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the scribes and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people.

***CANTICLE - Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)***

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:**

**your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation**

**which you have prepared in the sight of every people:**

**a light to reveal you to the nations**

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

### *Prayer of St Ephrem*

O Lord and Master of my life,  
spare me from the spirit of apathy and meddling,  
of idle chatter and love of power.

Instead, grant to me, your servant,  
the spirit of integrity and humility,  
of patience and love.

Yes, O Lord and God,  
grant me the grace to be aware of my sins  
and not to judge others,  
**For You are blessed, now and forever. Amen**

### *Intercessions*

*There will be brief pauses in our intercessions, and a longer silence towards the end, for you to add your personal prayers.*

### *Collect*

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.  
**Amen**

### *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 trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **CLOSING**

It is good to give thanks to God;  
**God's goodness will last for ever.**

For the day now done<sup>3</sup>  
**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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<sup>3</sup> From the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*