

College Chapel - September 14

*Sometimes the best map will not guide you
You can't see what's round the bend,
Sometimes the road leads through dark places
Sometimes the darkness is your friend.*
Bruce Cockburn, "Pacing the Cage," 1996

Call to Worship

Not as a cross
but in people of the cross
Christ is here

Not as a candle
but in people of light
Christ is here

Not as water
but in a baptism full of grace
Christ is here

We welcome Christ
**as Christ welcomes us
to this open place**

to a journey we may join
a calling we may know
a purpose we might fulfil
a grace we might receive

**Gather us in, Lord
Gather us in**

Prayer

Let us pray:

God of all times and this time

May we meet you now

in the beating of our hearts and the stirring of our minds

God of all places and this place

May we meet you here

in the rhythm of our steps and the singing of our souls

God of all people and this people

May we meet you among us

in our gathering of prayers and passing of peace

God of all wisdom and Living Word

May we hear you address us

in your salvation story and our life stories

God of presence, peace and power

May we sense you within and among us

through bread and wine, in Spirit and in truth

We worship you.

Amen.

Bible Reading: Exodus 16:1-12

Invitation to the Journey

The journey from fear to love
may take us through desert places
liminal spaces,
in between the not-forgotten
and the not-foreseen
a holding pattern
a dis-comfort zone
not a trap but a trial –
a road less travelled
plans unravelled

through dark valleys with shadows of death
past still waters of stagnant faith
where doubts loom
and memories dim
a nowhere place
for nobody people

The journey from fear to love
takes us from control to chaos
from cage to wilderness
from feast to famine

might we choose such a journey?
if in this place we might expire
and possibly, just possibly
be reborn?

Stations

(people visit the five stations in their own time – allow 20 minutes)
(music playing in the background)

Song on tape - "Then the Quail Came"

Gathering to the Table

In the wilderness
our Lord knew solitude
now he calls us to community

In the wilderness
our Lord fasted
now he calls us to feast

In the wilderness
our Lord was tested
now he calls us to peace

He who let himself be emptied
invites us to be filled

Those who wish to serve him
must first be served by him
those who want to follow him
must first be fed by him

For this is the table
where God intends us to be nourished
this is the time
when Christ can make us new

So come, you who hunger and thirst
for a deeper faith
for a better life
for a fairer world

Narrative of Institution of the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise

God of Life
from the beginning of time
you have nourished your creation,
from the beginning of history
you have sustained your people

In the Garden you provided food for the children of your Creation
After the great flood, you offered Noah and his family the fruits of the earth
In Egypt your people ate the bitter bread of slavery for a time
yet in the desert you quenched their thirst and satisfied their hunger
You led them to a land of milk and honey

Through their trials you taught them trust and obedience
- that we cannot live by bread alone
but by your living word dwelling among us

We praise you that in Jesus Christ
we have encountered the Bread of Life
through whom all Creation might come to completeness

For his life which informs our living
for his compassion which changes our hearts
for his innocent suffering
his fearless dying
his rising to life, breathing forgiveness
we praise you and worship him
with the faithful of every time and place
in the eternal hymn

Holy holy holy Lord.....

God of infinite grace
we gather with open hands and open hearts
We yearn for the healing, the holding,
the accepting, the forgiving,
which Christ alone can offer

Send now your Holy Spirit
on this bread and wine
that this time may be full of the presence of Christ

And let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of this passing world
until we conform to the shape of him
whose food we now share.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

[Invite people to place their stone on the table before they receive the bread.]

Prayer

God of all our journeys
In deep gratitude for this meal
we offer ourselves to you.
Because we have shared the living bread
we cannot remain the same
Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.
May we live to your glory
both as in habitants of earth
and as citizens of heaven.
Amen

Song – “The Summons”

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown
will you let my name be known
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

The Iona Community

Sending Out

Christ's food in our souls
Our food shared like his.
Christ's life in our hands
Our lives shaped by his.
Christ's life in our hearts
Our love warmed through his.
Christ's peace on our path
Our path following his.

As you go from this place,
may grace and peace be yours,

Words by Craig Mitchell, Iona Community, Bruce Cockburn, Uniting in Worship 2

in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.
I invite you to share the peace with one another.

Peace

Song on CD – “Pacing the Cage” Bruce Cockburn

“Pacing the Cage”

Bruce Cockburn

Sunset is an angel weeping
Holding out a bloody sword
No matter how I squint I cannot
Make out what it's pointing toward
Sometimes you feel like you've lived too long
Days drip slowly on the page
You catch yourself
Pacing the cage

I've proven who I am so many times
The magnetic strips worn thin
And each time I was someone else
And everyone was taken in
Powers chatter in high places
Stir up eddies in the dust of rage
Set me to pacing the cage

I never knew what you all wanted
So I gave you everything
All that I could pillage
All the spells that I could sing
It's as if the thing were written
In the constitution of the age
Sooner or later you'll wind up
Pacing the cage

Sometimes the best map will not guide you
You can't see what's round the bend
Sometimes the road leads through dark places
Sometimes the darkness is your friend

Words by Craig Mitchell, Iona Community, Bruce Cockburn, Uniting in Worship 2

Today these eyes scan bleached-out land
For the coming of the outbound stage
Pacing the cage