

WELCOME TO IONA

We are pleased to gather together for worship today. Join us after the service for fellowship time. If you wish more information on our congregation, please speak to the duty elder or the minister.

Pastoral information cards are located in the front of the hymn books.

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Dr. PA (Sandy) McDonald

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We gather on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Mi'kmaq bind us together as we strive for healing and reconciliation. We offer thanks for their stewardship of this good earth!

May 4, 2025, 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter

Greeting Elder: Perry Mason

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

(Please stand, if able, as the worship leader enters and then be seated.)

Prelude: (Time for prayer and silent reflection)

Greeting: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

APPROACH TO THE WORD

***Choral Introit 260:** "Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord" (verses 2, 4)

***Call to Worship:**

In today, in yesterday, and in all the days to come,
we see that Christ is risen indeed.

In the sunrise, in the rainfall, in the first plant to sprout,
we see that Christ is risen indeed.

In the breath of our bodies, in the work of our hands,
we see that Christ is risen indeed.

In the first step taken, the first word spoken, the first arm extended,
we see that Christ is risen indeed; hallelujah!

***Hymn 522:** "We know that Christ is raised and dies no more"

Prayer of Adoration and Confession:

L: God of the third day of resurrection,
the first day of new beginnings,
and the seventh day of rest:
in the story of Easter you show us your creative power at work,
bringing life from lifelessness, hope from hopelessness,
and assuring us that destruction can never have the last word.
Together with the disciples, we are reminded that all empires are finite,
and though the enemies of life and love may do their worst,

your Kingdom is everlasting,
and lives wherever two or three are gathered in your name.
And so we see your face in the warmth of the sun,
in the lengthening of the days,
in every plant that shoots forth amid the concrete,
and in all people who work for your justice, your truth, your peace, and
your love.

All praise be to you, O God and Source of Life,
through your resurrected Son, in the vitality of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

All: God of radiance and renewal:

**in the resurrection you show us a hope that no cruelty can defeat,
and a persistence of life that no force can extinguish.**

**Yet we confess that it is difficult to imagine a world
where mercy overcomes might.**

**We may cling to old fabricated narratives,
doubting the depth of possibility that is You.**

**We may crave the comfort of certainty
rather than seek You in the cloud of unknowing.**

Forgive us for those times we have failed to take that leap of faith.

**Grant us the courage to embrace the emptiness
where unknowing transfigures into possibility
and uncertainty gives way to trusting in You.**

Assurance of Pardon

*** Children's hymn 674:** "In the bulb there is a flower"

*** Children's Time**

Children may go to Sunday School

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Kings 7:1-16

Responsive Reading: Psalm 2

Gloria Patri (sung# 594)

Epistle: Revelation 1:4-8

Gospel: John 20:19-31

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

*** Hymn:** "You tell me that the Lord is risen" (*Please see insert*)

Sermon

Offertory music: "They'll know we are Christians by our love" (by Peter Scholtes)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offering followed by The Doxology (sung # 830)

***Affirmation of Faith:** *Living Faith 3.5.1–3.5.3, "Jesus is Lord"*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) (831)

***Hymn 248:** "At the dawning of salvation"

***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Choral Amen**

Postlude

* Please stand if able

Large print hymnbooks are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to **Tamsin Moynihan-Robson** and **AMS** for leading the service this morning. Join us for coffee after the service hosted by **Mary Martha** this week and next week.

This Week at Iona (May 4th – May 10th):

- **May 6** – 1:30 p.m. – Atlantic Mission Society meeting at the church. You would be most welcome to join us.
- **May 7** - 9:30 - 11:30 - Wed Morning coffee and crafts group meeting at church. Bring your projects and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee while you work.
- **May 7** - 1:30-3:00 p.m. – Bible study
- **May 10** - Takeaway tea is available

Next Week at Iona (May 11th – May 17th):

- **May 14** - 9:30 - 11:30 - Wed Morning coffee and crafts group meeting at church. Bring your projects and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee while you work.
- **May 14** - 1:30-3:00 pm – Bible study