

## 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 in the front of the hymn books.**

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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!*

**July 26, 2026, 10:00 am**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Greeting Elder: Susan Osborne

**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.**

**The Ministry of God's People**

### APPROACH TO THE WORD

**\*Choral Introit #496:** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet"

**\*Call to Worship:**

Leader: We come to the Lord, dissatisfied with the world.

**Response: The world has promised much, but given little.**

L: Our God has promised more, and will provide.

**R: Where all else has failed, the Lord has won.**

L: Let us worship the one whose faith has never failed.

**R: Let us worship our God, who promises eternal life.**

**\*Hymn #290:** "Immortal, invisible God only wise"

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession:**

God of all faithfulness, You have promised us great things.  
You have sworn a covenant with us, and we will not forget it.

You have been with us through all struggles, all setbacks, and all difficulties, and yet You have carried us through. In all Your glory, You have shone ever brighter. Your goodness contrasts the darkness of this world, and in You we seek all light, all praise, and all great things. Help us to seek You, help us to know You, and may Your grace be our only goal.

**Though we have looked too often to the world to be our guide, yet we come to You for forgiveness.**

**Though we have held other things, other gods, and other desires above You, we ask that You still be with us.**

**The things of this world promise great things, and we have been deceived by their ways.**

**Bring us in, O Lord, and rescue us from deception. Save us from torment. And may Your light bring liberty and justice to all.**

**In the name of Christ, who has freed all people, Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Teaching hymn #708:** "When Israel was in Egypt's land"

### HEARING THE WORD

**First Reading:** Genesis 29: 15-28

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119: 129-136

**Gloria Patri (sung #594)**

**Second Reading:** Romans 8: 26-39

**Gospel:** Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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

**\*Hymn #500:** "Open my eyes"

**Sermon**

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Offering followed by The Doxology (sung #830)**

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** Living Faith 8.4.2, 8.4.4 (Justice)

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession**

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

**\*Hymn #461:** "Be thou my vision"

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

**\*Choral Amen**

**Postlude**

**\* Please stand if able**

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

07/26/2026

Join us for lemonade after the service—hosted by **Session** this week and by **Operations** next week.

**Announcements:**

- Welcome and thank you to David Parker for leading our worship today.