

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.

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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 5, 2026, 10:00 am

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Greeting Elder: Waneta Holmes

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 565:** "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life" (vv. 1, 3)

***Call to Worship:**

God has made us, knows us, and calls us;

Let us rejoice in the goodness that God has made.

God has come to us in Jesus, the Word of Creation;

Let us listen for the words of God, wherever they may be found.

God sends Their Holy Spirit to inspire and transform us;

Let us open our hearts to Her movement and Her challenge.

***Hymn 339:** "He's got the whole world in His hands"

Prayer of Adoration and Confession:

God of grace and God of glory,
you are the yoke that is easy;

you are the wisdom hidden from the wise;
you are the peace that this world cannot give.
Where walls are built, you call us to break them down.
Where doors are shut, you stand with those knocking.
Where hearts are closed, yours is the grief.
You challenge us to reach for a goodness beyond mere rules,
that by seeking you, we may know our own hearts' sorrow,
shedding our pains and fears to make way for your grace,
the sign of your supreme love, which brings justice and peace.
Blessing, honour, glory, and infinite possibility
be unto you, O God, Author of Life and Fount of Love,
known by many names and in many guises,
yet one Reality, now and forever.

**God who in the person of Christ rejoiced, wept, and raged:
you have created us good and revealed to us the path of life.
But we confess that, still, we find ourselves not doing the good we
seek, but falling back on old habits born from the same pain and grief
they sow.**

**Forgive us, O God; lead us to understand the thoughts of our hearts;
help us love our neighbours as ourselves, and free us from sin and
shame.**

Words of Assurance

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

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 (The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah)

Responsive Reading: Song of Songs 2:8–13 (see below)

Gloria Patri (sung# 594)

Second Reading: Romans 7:15–25a (Paul's inner conflict)

Gospel: Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 (Wisdom's works / The easy yoke)

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

***Hymn 747:** "There is a balm in Gilead"

Sermon

Invitation to the Offering

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offering followed by The Doxology (sung # 830)

***Affirmation of Faith:** Living Faith 8.3.1, 8.3.5, from "Love"

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

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

07/05/2026

***Hymn 760:** "Where cross the crowded ways of life"

Readings

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Postlude

*** Please stand if able**

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

Join us for lemonade after the service—hosted by **Outreach and Service** this week and by **The Guild** next week.

Announcements:

- Victoria will be leaving us for a new opportunity. We wish her all the best.