

WELCOME TO IONA

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!

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministry Candidate: Tamsin Moynihan-Robson

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Music Ministry: Cathy Lee Holmes

Greeting Elder: Susan Osborne

*(*Indicates please stand as able)*

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 #444:** "Sweet is the solemn voice" verses 1 and 2

***Call to Worship:**

Let us praise the God of life.

Let us praise God together.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far God removes our sins.

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

Let us praise the God of mercy together.

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

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of might and mercy,
the heavens and the earth are full of your glory.

Your love transforms our lives.

You enter our confusion and give insight.

You bear our grief and bring healing.

You see our fatigue and renew strength.

You sense our fear and spark courage.

You know death and raise up new life.

So, we come before you in worship,

handing over to you all that weighs us down.

Renew us in this time of worship, we pray,

so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus' name. Amen.

Merciful God,

our lives do not always reflect your transforming power.

You are gracious, but we cling to judgment.

You are kind, but we can be cruel.

You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds.

Forgive us, O God.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

***Teaching hymn #751:** "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading: Exodus 14:19–31 (God confounds Pharaoh's chariots)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 114 (When Israel went out from Egypt)

Gloria Patri #594

Second Reading: Romans 14:1–12 (Do not judge another)

Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35 (The unforgiving servant)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn #74:** "When Israel fled from Egypt land"

Sermon

Music for Reflection

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Sept. 13, 2026

Offering**

*The Doxology #830

*Affirmation of Faith: Living Faith 3.4.3, from "Jesus is Saviour"

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

*Hymn #632: "Help us accept each other"

*Commissioning and Benediction

*Choral Amen

Postlude

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***Offerings may also be given by e-transfer to ionapc@eastlink.ca or by pre-authorized monthly deduction. Contact Perry Mason (902-499-0095).*

We are glad you have gathered to worship with us this morning.
Everyone is invited to join us after the service for coffee, hosted this week by **Hospitality & Community Life** and by **Session** next week.

Announcements:

- **Session** will meet Monday, September 14th at 2:30 pm at Iona
- **The Wednesday morning craft group** will start up on Sept 23rd at 9:30 in the kitchen. All are welcome for tea, coffee, and conversation. Bring along your own craft items to work on
- **Community Health Team flyers** on FREE Health and Wellness Programs and the **Positive Aging Directory** will be given out this Sunday after Church. Lots of good information in these booklets.
- **Replanting of Iona's Garden:** new shrubs needed. If you would like **to** donate one, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please contact Debbie Bourque at 902-223-7853.
- If you are using **Offering Envelopes**, please include your number so that our envelope secretary can accurately maintain your giving information for tax receipt purposes.
- **Donations for our Children Believe sponsorship of Amanu Molla** of Ethiopia may be added to your envelope. Thank you.