

Prelude: *Sorrow and Happiness*, Anton Heiller

Welcome

Opening of the Word and Invocation (Psalm 10:17)

Hymn #20

Responsive Reading (based on Micah 6:6-8)

Leader: *With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?*

All: The Lord does not seek praises and external rituals, but only those acts which flow from genuine heavenly inspirations.

Leader: *Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?*

All: Neither does the Lord wish us to celebrate a doctrine that is not lived, or feelings of compassion never expressed.

Leader: *Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

All: We have been shown that we cannot grow all by ourselves, but only by opening ourselves to the healing presence of the Most High.

Leader: *The Lord has shown you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you...*

All: But to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Opening Prayer (please kneel, said in unison)

Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and you.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

An Affirmation of Worship

We worship God, our loving Lord, who made us; who taught us in the Bible that all people are God's children, and that we should love God and each other. When people turned away from God, he loved us enough to be born in our world as a baby. He grew up and lived the life he wants us to live. Risen now, he is still with us, our Lord and our God, helping us to grow more like him. This is why we know him as our Savior. We are his disciples when we love him, and show our love for him by being kind and helpful to one another.

Readings: Genesis 28:10-17, Luke 17:20-21, Heaven & Hell #54

Children's Message

Sermon: What is Heaven?

Time of Reflection: *Communion*, Louis Verne

Closing Prayer

Prayer of Gratitude
The Lord's Prayer

Offering: *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*, Michael Burkhardt

Offertory Response (please stand, sung in unison):

**We give Thee but Thine Own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee**

Closing Hymn #414

Benediction*

Postlude: *Fuga in Bb*, George F. Handel

*From the Iona Community