

DROMANTINE INTER-CHURCH GATHERING

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

CLOSING LITURGY

Leader: This afternoon we have been companions on the journey, travelling that little bit farther on our ecumenical pilgrimage. Before we leave this holy place, we want to commit ourselves afresh to travelling together in all our diversity towards that unity for which Jesus prayed. So now -

In the presence of the sending Father,
in the presence of the saving Son,
in the presence of the anointing Spirit,
in the presence of the Three in One – we pray

Readers: Grant, O God, that your Church in this island may be true to its birthright. And kindle in us the adventure of obedience, the single eye, the generous, loving spirit which marked Patrick, Columba, Bridget and all your Celtic saints.

Leader: Before we embark on the next stage of this journey, let us release to God those things we would leave behind.

Readers: We release into your hands, O God, the fear of the unknown, the prejudice and the pride that have been stumbling blocks on the way.
We release into your hands, O God, those who have hurt us and left us and any who may feel vulnerable without us.
We release into your hands, O God, the pressures that weary us, the problems that would pursue us, the things we have neglected, the tasks left unfinished.

Leader: Before we set out with renewed commitment, we pray for past failures to be forgiven, for wounds to be healed, for confusions to be resolved, for ignorance to be dispelled, for relationships to be treasured.

Let us now invite God to inspire our expectations.

Readers: Lord, nothing is impossible to you. You can raise the dead. Raise us up, we pray. God of surprises, give us a spirit of expectancy for new horizons

to dawn, for fresh shafts of light to illumine dark corners, for you to open the Scriptures to us, for growth in love, in patience, in understanding and in humour, for good experiences in worship, for a new dawn in your Church, for an empowering of your people, for the emergence of prophetic words and actions. Transform us into people of outrageous hope.

Leader: I invite you now to place your hand on the shoulder of the companion next to you, as we commission one another.

All: **God, you have offered your love to us, and here we pledge our love to you. Strengthen us in our desire to be companions on the journey, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your desire for unity so that the world will believe. We pray this in the name of Jesus, to whom we commit ourselves. Amen.**

Leader: Risen Christ, you have called, and the call has been heard. Help us to be fully present to you in this moment of choice and in every moment of the journey ahead.

The Blessing: May the Christ who walks with the shoes of peace walk with us on the road.
May the Christ who serves with healing hands stretch out our hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with the wounded heart open our hearts to love.
May the Christ who prays that we may be one unite us this day and always
May the Christ who is our companion on the journey travel with us to the end – and the beginning. **Amen**

Prayers taken and adapted from:

Ray Simpson, *The Celtic Prayer Book, Volume Three, Healing The Land* (Buxhall, Stowmarket: Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2004)

The Iona Community, *Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2001)