

A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a field. The sky is filled with orange and yellow light, with a bright, glowing area near the horizon. Silhouetted trees and grass are visible in the foreground. The text "EVENING PRAYER" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

EVENING PRAYER

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said, “Let there be light.”

All: And there was light

(A lit candle is placed on the table)

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God.

All: And what God was, the Word was.

(An open Bible is placed on the table)

Leader: When the time was right, God sent the Son.

All: He came among us; he was one of us.

(A cross is placed centrally on the table)



Leader: God is here, God is there, God is with us and within us, and the spaces between us. Let us open our hearts to hear God in the Psalms.

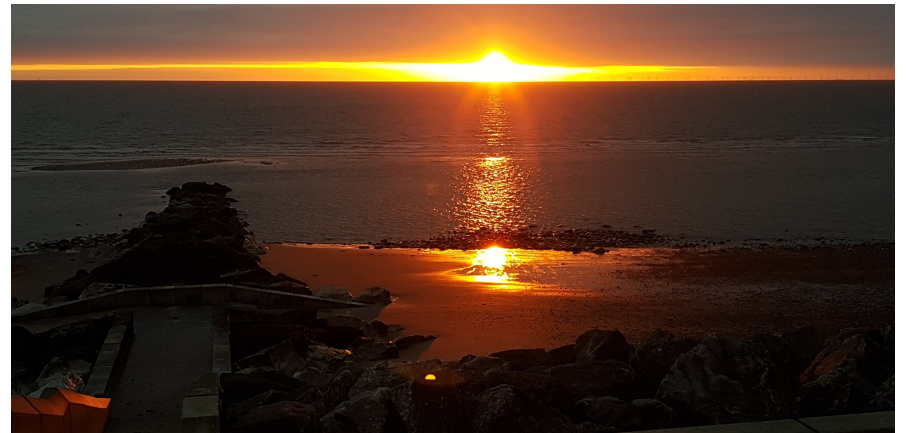
(A reading from the Psalms)

Leader: As countless people have done before us throughout the centuries, as the sun sets and the moon rises, let us reflect on the journey of this day.

(Pause for reflection)

We thank you for the day you have given us.

All: We thank you.



Leader: For the love shared.

All: We are grateful.

Leader: For provision and nurture.

All: We are grateful.

Leader: For kindness given

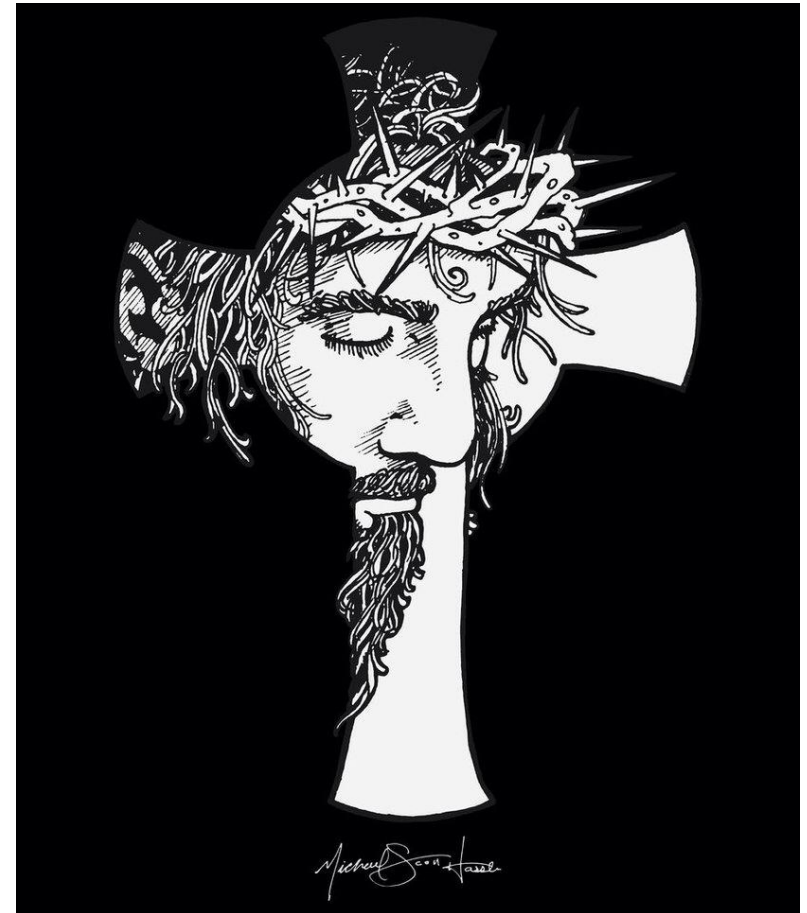
All: We are grateful.

Leader: For the sorrow we've caused.

All: We pray for forgiveness

Leader: For injustices ignored

All: We pray for forgiveness.



Leader: As the night comes let us still our hearts and minds to hear a reading from the Bible.

(The daily scripture reading)

Leader: What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night? Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.

Let us pray.

You never sleep, God. You are always awake, always watching, always willing the world and it's people to turn in the right direction.



Leader: We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray :

We pray for those who have asked for our prayers :

Leader: God be near them.

All: God be near them.

Leader: We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and those mourning the loss of a loved one :

Leader: God be near them.

All: God be near them.

Leader: We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight.

Leader: God be near them.

All: God be near them.

Leader: We bring to God someone we find hard to forgive or to trust.

Leader: God be near us.

All: God be near us.

Leader: We bring to God ourselves that we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind and warmth of affection.

Leader: God be near us.

All: God be near us.

Leader: Into your hands we commit ourselves, our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures; for all things come from you and are best kept in your care.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us join together in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: We welcome the dark of the night. We make space for it, and we mark our place in it. We remember that you, Jesus of Nazareth, lived through nights of consolation and desolation. You Lord walked into the nights of those people you met, inviting them to justice and truth, love and life.

All: We welcome the night.

Leader: For a peaceful night,

All: We pray.

Leader: For a hopeful day tomorrow,

All: We pray.

Leader: For a deeper generosity,

All: We pray.

Leader: But before the day is done, let God's holy name be praised; and let God's holy people say Amen.

All: Amen.



The prayers are drawn from the Iona Abbey Evening Liturgy by The Iona Community and Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community by Pdraig O Tuma