

‘Unknowable we know you’

A short liturgy for the feast of Corpus Christi

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 1

‘Invisible we see you...
unknowable we know you...’
from a prayer by George MacLeod

REACHING OUT

(*You could, if you wish, light a candle with each stanza.*)

[KELVIN]

Jesus, born as one of us,
through the substance of your physical presence
God’s life was revealed;

[PAT]

Jesus, forever with us,
by the mystery of your real presence
our lives are transformed;

[EMMA, SCP]

Jesus, before and beyond us,
within the span of your cosmic presence
all life is sustained.

[SISTER AJ]

Jesus,
may this space
which I now hold here
be suffused
with the deep joy
of your presence
Amen.

You are invited to keep a time of silence.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 2

RECOGNITION AND RESHAPING

[IAN, SCP]

God, you are without limits
and yet
in grace,
and out of love,
you choose to confine yourSelf
within the elements of the world –

incarnate flesh
bread and wine
encountered Others –

for only so
can we, who have limits,
meet you and know you,
speak of and show you.

Where I have not always seen you in the world
expand my encountering
that I may more fully know for myself
the reality of your presence.

Where I have not always been you in the world
enlarge my embodying
that I may more fully play my part
in making your presence real.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 3

READING: Mark 14: 22-25

[MARION]

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

HYMN: A Hymn for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

[MORVEN]

See the Blessèd Body,
God's most gracious Word,
spoken out within time
as a 'yes' was heard.
One who fills the heavens
takes the smallest place,
humble servant body
given life through grace.

See the Blessèd Body,
God's untrammelled pow'r,
through whose breath the life came
to creation's hour.
One who knows no limits
set themselves a bound,
frail and human body
where Life's pow'r was found.

See the Blessèd Body,
God's unfettered love,
Trinity's great leaven
human life to prove;
One who offers welcome
to the very least,
gen'rous body broken
in Love's endless feast.

See the Blessèd Body,
God's unvanquished life,
in a garden choosing
death's discordant strife;
One who then in joy rose
with dawn's dazzling sky,
scarred harmonious body,
Life that cannot die.

See the Blessèd Body,
God's Eternal Word,
speaking throughout all time
as Love's song is heard,
when through sacrament Christ's
Presence is declared,
where in acts of welcome
life is freely shared.

Text © Pat Bennett

Tune: Adoro te devote

You are invited to keep a time of silence.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 4

RESPONSE

[TONY, SCP]

Jesus of paradox
so many boundaries meet
and dissolve
in the elemental mystery
of your Body
in all its generous possibilities.
May I recognise and rejoice
in the reality of your presence
however I encounter it
that I too
may be transformed.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 5

You are invited to keep a time of silence.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 6

REORIENTATION

[SOPHIE]

Jesus
as I inhabit,
explore
and engage with
the elements
of my own small life,
may I always be attentive to your presence
wherever it is blessed
broken
and offered
Amen.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION 7

Liturgy © Pat Bennett

The Iona Community

Pat Bennett is a writer and liturgist based in Glasgow, and is the author of a wide range of liturgical resources for public and personal use. A collection of her hymn texts 'The Leavening of Life - contemporary hymns for different times and seasons' will be published this summer by Wild Goose Publications www.ionabooks.com She is a member of the Iona Community.