



Collects from a  
**‘Pilgrimage of Creation Care’**  
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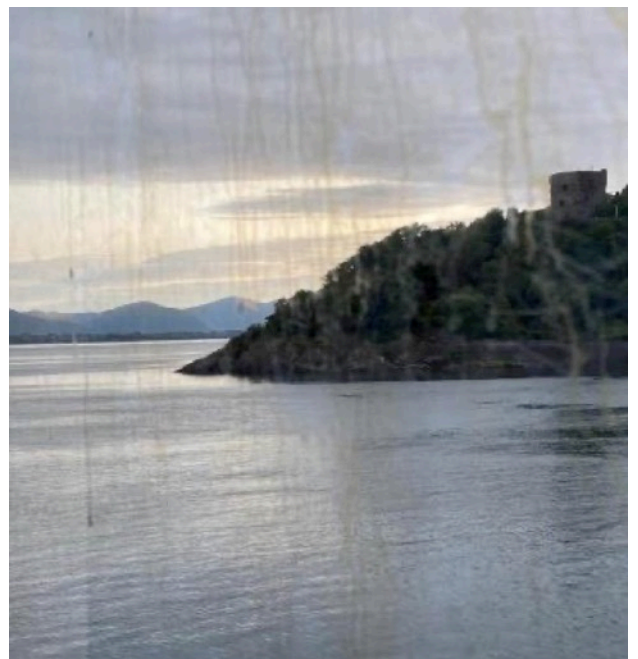
The pilgrimage began with an invitation from the Wellspring Community in Australia to the Iona Community Leader to visit ‘these lands now called Australia’ on a **Creation Care Pilgrimage**. Having reignited our long-standing relationship as communities of faith committed to justice and peace, particularly since the slump of the pandemic, this was seen as an opportunity to strengthen that relationship, consider ways to deepen our connection at a strategic level, and consider the wisdom coming from **indigenous Aboriginal Christian leaders** in the context of the **climate catastrophe**.



**These ‘collects’ emerged from reflection on the pilgrimage experience, which can be followed in greater detail [here](#). If you’re writing your own, the shape is as follows: 1) naming who we are praying to; 2) saying more about the one to whom we are praying; 3) naming a single request; 4) saying more about this request; 5) finishing with a ‘bird of praise’ .**

**Collect 1: Looking through a murky ferry window, Sound of Mull, 1/9/2023**

God of the grimy window.  
God who sees beyond all that obscures,  
freshen my gaze this morning.  
Open wide the vistas  
that sing on the horizon  
offering us a glimpse of the not yet  
nestled in the now.  
And strengthen all CalMac workers,  
as they value safety and sustenance  
over sparkling portholes.  
In the name of the one who  
rises on the wind like  
a sated Oban seagull.  
Amen



**Collect 2: Iona Jetty, 4/9/2023**

God of the deeps;  
God of the squid and the seal,  
the mackerel and the minke,  
the dolphin (and the mermaid...)  
forgive our lack of curiosity  
about life below the waves.  
As seas rise and lands recede,  
may the translucence of the jelly fish  
so dazzle our souls with humility and  
awe  
that we plunge deep into your  
transforming love  
to rise renewed through  
your call for sea-earth justice. Amen.

**Collect 3: Tarntanya/Kuarna Country, October 2023**

God of torrents of tears.

God of weeping mothers and stolen children,  
of earth marked and scarred, of communities addicted  
and elders unseen, unheard, gather us in to listen deeply,  
share intently, understand so fully  
that our differences become starting points and  
our points of intersection become rivers of connection  
flowing more deeply than all that divides.

In the name of the One who calls us to be one beyond borders. Amen

**Collect 4: Desert Pea Collect, Campfire in the Heart,  
Mparntwe/Alice Springs, 9th October**

God of the forgotten.

God of the massacred and mown,  
of the trampled, torn, decimated and desecrated,  
may we linger in lament long enough  
to unlock our tears so our flood of sorry  
meets the deep flow of sorrow locked into these lands.

Let us reclaim lament as that un-ceded, uncontested,  
sovereign, sacred space where agency rests alone  
with the one who weeps.

So transform our hearts that the fragrance  
of the blood-black-red of the desert pea lingers in our loving  
now, and always. Amen.

**Collect 5: Campfire in the Heart, Mparntwe/Alice  
Springs, 10th October**

God of soft sands and desert rocks.

God of deep sleep, of stone-sand pillows where dreams  
unfurl, where balance is restored, and where perspective is found.  
So grant us times of dreaming-rest, of reverie and revelation,  
where pathways to peace open wide, and roads to reconciliation  
unfold.

This song of hope we lift to you, bird of peace.

Amen

**Collect 6: Christchurch Collect**

Go-between God

God of each yesterday and  
of every tomorrow,  
of transitions that  
pivot us between your now and your not yet,  
stand strong beside us in the moment.

Help us so in turn to stand firm,  
to hold solid ground  
with the people of Gaza, the people of Israel,  
with the people of Sudan, the people of  
Ukraine.

In moments of shaky uncertainty  
when all seems tumultuous, stand firm.

As your world turned widdershins, tapselteeerie, heelster-gowdie  
on the cross, so companion us  
through all uncertainties.

And so may we remain strong in resurrection hope  
and stable in undying love. Amen

