

## **An Affirmation of Faith (from the Iona Community)**

We believe in God who chose a wandering people for God's own, calling them from slavery into freedom; yet who in Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Cyrus, Darius and many others, called outsiders to be agents of God's purpose.

We believe in Jesus who was revered by Persian sages, sought and found asylum in Egypt, preached that God loves Syrians, attracted to God's cause Greeks and Romans, found his first evangelist in a Samaritan, had his mind changed by a Phoenician, and his cross shouldered by an African; and ascended above his native land that he might be present in every place.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who at Pentecost proved that heaven had no favored mother-tongue, who in the baptism of an Ethiopian denied racism and a foothold in faith, and who in the ancient world founded churches across cultures.

We believe that God is supremely known in Jesus, yet we affirm that God may choose to show God's face in different guises, for the kingdom of God is bigger than the Church and the love of God is beyond our understanding.

We therefore celebrate that God's ways are not our ways, that God knows whom God chooses, and that, as in Jesus, God's surprise surpasses all human expectations.