

**Bible Study Series “Singing the Unsung”
Session Five - The Thin Place That Is Iona**

A beautiful place - white sand at the bottom of the sea

St Columba - mission to Scotland from Ireland. A method where monks were sent out in pairs to befriend people before evangelized. Converted most of Scotland.

A center of missionary outreach in the 6th Century

At the time of the reformation (16th Cent) the Abbey was desecrated and torn down; houses built in the village from the stones of the abbey.

Cathedral was rebuilt at the end of the 19th Century; the monastic community started to be built in 1938 - became a place of pilgrimmage.

Not just an historic site, but a prophetic community which is sometimes in the center of the church, and sometimes on the fringe of it. Iona has pioneered in Scotland work with regard to ecumenism, social justice, healing, reconciliation, and renewal of worship.

A different kind of monastic community - no monks, but various peoples and traditions coming together!

song: “Standing in the Need of Prayer”

Singing brightly, or singing in a moment of sadness or loss.

song: “Wa, Wa, A-mem-e-mo”

song: “Listen to the Word Which God has Spoken”
...listen to the One who’s close at hand...listen even if you don’t understand

Simple and complex

song: “Amen, Alleluia, Amen”

“Trust people, and they’ll do it!”
...the work of the Spirit!

series of short songs in cathedral:

song: “God has Chosen me”

song: “For Such a Time as This”

song: “We Walk His Way”

song: “Come, Holy Spirit”

Images in this session:

The Celtic Cross – has a connection, at least in legend, to St Columba
More information here: <http://irishfireside.com/2015/02/03/history-symbolism-celtic-cross/>

Cathedral built of stone, lit primarily by candles – note how such a space can affect the tone of worship and singing



For discussion:

How can the context in which a song is sung inform your choice of tempo, volume, and “energy-level”?