

- Start with **beginning of Gospel:**
 Jesus said “this generation is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,
 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
 we wailed, and you did not mourn.’
 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ”
- Resistance: tell about 9th grade – plain out refusing to do social studies project design a prison...
- Look at Paul’s conundrum we read today in his Letter to church in Rome:
 “I do not understand my own actions. when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ... I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.”
- Paul’s use of “Flesh” Theologian RICHARD ROHR: try “EGO” instead
- for me: Looking down ... judging - refusing to engage...
- Like Paul, so often we are wretched. Weary, fighting ourselves...
- Look at Christ’s promise at the end of the Gospel:
 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
- Really - in the end, we FALL INTO Christ’s love and refreshment. We certainly don’t achieve it by our perfection.
- How the request for a sermon on prayer was itself an answer to prayer...
- ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication Intercession+ Petition

- A scaffolding that opens us up to transformation, Prayer not as changing God, but opening ourselves and others to God, the life-force of the universe, transformation so that we can stop resisting, release our ego, accept our inability to achieve perfection and fall into the love and the guidance of Christ.
- Wretched schmucks that we are! Who will rescue us from our cycles of resistance and failure?
- Jesus said:
“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
- Close with prayer from Isle of IONA *WeeBook5 p.27*

Celebrant Because God is good, and has intended us to share that goodness, we open ourselves to nothing less than transformation as together we say:

ALL **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.**

Celebrant YOU are the Word behind all words, the calm at the core of the storm, the energy that sustains creation.

☺ YOU are present in the pain behind the tears,

☺ the laughter in the eyes,

☺ the yearning in the heart.

ALL **All these YOU share, yet YOUR gift to us is much more.**

Celebrant So, open us up, Lord, we whose lives are locked,

☺ we whose thoughts are well-rehearsed,

☺ we whose prayer is predictable.

ALL **Open us up to depths we have not explored,**

☺ truths we have avoided,

☺ paths we have not followed,

☺ beauty we have yet to admire.

Celebrant And open us up to Jesus, in whom all things are held together for God and for our good.

ALL **Amen.**