

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Rocks

**“The winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not;  
for it was founded upon a rock.”**

*Matthew 7:27*

I've been a member of the Iona Community since 1973, and Iona is my spiritual home. My sense of belonging with members of the Iona Community has been a sustaining feature of all my adult life. Not surprisingly, my home is full of reminders of Iona. One of these is a painting by the late David Reid. It's an unusual depiction of Iona Abbey, for its perspective is from the village jetty, across the rocks on the Sound of Iona and along the village street, with the Abbey looking very fragile in the distance. The rocks are so big and the Abbey so very small, it looks as though, with the other buildings, it's balancing on a rocky outcrop.

Jesus told a story about that. Two people build houses, one on rocks and the other on sand. When the wind and the rains came, the house on the sand was washed away, but the house on the rocks stayed solid. Have a rock as your foundation, Jesus said, so when the storms of life come, you'll have a solid base. Build your life on sand? You're in trouble, for when the wind and the rain batter your house, it's likely to fall, because the foundations will be washed away.

Even Iona Abbey looks frail in my painting. And, to be honest, there have been times when my resolve in the midst of this crisis has taken a battering, and I wonder, at times, whether I'll survive. I feel so vulnerable in the face of this great storm. And, sometimes, I get scared. But, thank God, there are rocks under me that I need more than ever before, rocks that feel bigger the more my faith feels fragile and small.

That's the perspective David Reid's painting of Iona Abbey gives me. And that's the perspective I need right now. Perched on the top of my rocks, I'll trust what's under me to give me the foundations I need.

### **A prayer for today**

*“The rain came down and the floods came up,  
and the house on the rock stood FIRM!”*

*Thank God! Amen.*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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