

A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Sunday, January 31, 2021



St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Boothbay Harbor, Maine



CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.

What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.

Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.

There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .

In the quiet and the chaos,
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.

All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,
singularly focused on the healing of one another
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,
our prayers encircle the world continuously.
We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.

So come as you are, let down your burdens,
find your rest in God's expansive Love.
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,
sweeping 'round and 'round the world
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

A SIMPLE EVENING LITURGY

Opening Responses

Iona Abbey Worship Book pg. 141

Leader: Peace on each one who comes in need,
All: Peace on each one who comes in joy.

Leader: Peace on each one who offers prayers,
All: Peace on each one who offers song.

Leader: Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,
All: Peace of the Spirit the Triune One.

Opening Collect of the Day

Leader: God be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray,

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn #411 "O Bless the Lord, my soul!" (st. 1-3)

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!
2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854); para. of Psalm 103

Music: *St. Thomas* (Williams), melody Aaron Williams (1731–1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

Prayer

Leader: O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation,

All: We give You thanks.

Leader: For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation:
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings,

All: We give You thanks.

Leader: For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.

All: *We give You thanks.*

Leader: O God we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.
For us when we forget your gift of love
made known to us in Jesus,
and draw us into your presence.

THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel for the Day Mark 1:21-28

The Message

After Confident Teaching

Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, “What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!”

Jesus shut him up: “Quiet! Get out of him!” The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

Everyone there was spellbound, buzzing with curiosity. “What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and tells them to get lost!” News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

Here ends the reading.

Response

All are invited to reflect on the readings with a symbolic action to declare their engagement with their prayers of thanksgiving and concern; be it lighting a candle, meditating, placing stones in sand, ringing a bell, planting seeds, drawing or writing.

a period of silence follows

Hymn #304 "I come with joy to meet my Lord"

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt.
 Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889–1983)

Prayer

(Here is opportunity for prayers of concern, spoken or unspoken, each prayer being followed by silence.)

We bring to God
 someone whom we have met or remembered today
 and for whom we want to pray
(Silence)

We bring to God
 someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer
(Silence)

We bring to God
 a troubled situation in our world tonight
(Silence)

We bring to God, silently,
 someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust
(Silence)

We bring ourselves to God
 that we might grow in generosity of spirit,
 clarity of mind,
 and warmth of affection.
(Silence)

Hymn #657 "Love divine, all loves excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887)

Closing Responses

Leader: O Trinity of Love,
You have been with us at the world's beginning,

All: *Be with us till the world's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at our life's shaping,

All: *Be with us at our life's end.*

Leader: You have been with us at the sun's rising,

All: *Be with us till the day's end.*

Amen.

The Blessing

Our God, who created us, is with you;
Jesus Christ, who redeemed us, is with you;
the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us, is with you;
the Holy Three enfold you;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*



*Please note that during this time of pandemic
St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*

OUR MISSION

To be a Safe Harbor In the Name of Christ
For the Love of God ~
Through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to contribute to our online and community ministries, your special gift can be sent to:
St. Columba's Church
32 Emery Lane
Boothbay Harbor ME 04538

Or you can directly send us an online donation through the link on the Episcopal Diocese of Maine home page: <https://www.episcopalmaine.org/about-us/about-us-for-everyone/giving-online>



*The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown
Bishop of The Diocese of Maine*

*The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker,
Rector of St. Columba's Episcopal Church*

*Musician, IT, and Sound Engineer: Guy Scott
Bulletin Preparation: Gretchen Feblau*

NEW! DIOCESE OF MAINE "FAITH IN MAINE" PODCASTS BY PHONE

The Diocese of Maine "Faith in Maine" podcast (always the most recent episode) is now accessible by telephone!

The permanent phone number to listen to Faith in Maine podcasts is: **207-223-6402**

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