

**CELTIC EVENING PRAYER**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sunday, April 18, 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.

## EVENING LITURGY

### Opening Sentences

Leader: The Love of Christ surround us.

**People:** *The Light of Christ lead us.*

Leader: The Peace of Christ fill us.

**People:** *The Power of Christ aid us.*

Leader: The Joy of Christ thrill us.

**People:** *The presence of Christ be with us evermore.*

### The Lighting of the Three

Leader: We light a light in the name of the Maker.

**People:** *The Lord is with us, With might to protect us,  
With strength to defend us, The Lord is with us.*

*silence*

Leader: We light a light in the name of the Son.

**People:** *The Lord is with us, With wisdom to guide us,  
With peace to refresh us, The Lord is with us.*

*silence*

Leader: We light a light in the name of the Spirit.

**People:** *The Lord is with us, With love to enfold us,  
With joy to crown us, The Lord is with us.*

*silence*

### Opening Prayer

Leader: Our spirits hunger for your love, O Divine Maker of hearts, for the taste of your joy and a sense of your peace. May this time of prayer fill us with the whisper of your presence and the touch of your hand upon our hearts. We long for the depths of your love, to know your quiet constancy, the feast of your friendship that feeds us without end. Awaken us to your presence now, this moment, in our hearts. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for the Evening

Leader: Lord, eventide is upon us. It is a time for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. Night follows after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done, for now will be left undone; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

**People:** *The maker of heaven and earth.*

Leader: Let us confess our hopes to God.

## The Confession of Hope

*from The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue of America*

*All: We marvel at the mystery of the stars.  
Moon and sky, sand and sea.  
We marvel at the mystery of the sun.  
Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn.  
Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.  
Flesh and bone, steel and stone.  
We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.  
Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace.  
Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.  
Splendor, mercy, majesty, love endure.  
We are but little lower than the angels.  
Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise.  
The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.  
Evening darkness, morning dawn.  
Renew our lives as You renew all time.*

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

*People: O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

## Opening Collect of the Day

Leader: God be with you.

*All: And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray,

Leader: O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn #208 “The strife is o’er, the battle done” (st. 1-3)

*Antiphon (at the beginning)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o’er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Antiphon (at the end)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832–1909), alt.  
 Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

## WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

Gospel for the Day Luke 24:36b-48

*The Message*

### A Ghost Doesn’t Have Muscle and Bone

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, “Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

He asked, “Do you have any food here?” They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

## You're the Witnesses

Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

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*

### **Canticle Prayer**

Leader: We weave a silence on to our lips.

**People:** *We weave a silence into our minds.*

Leader: We weave a silence within our hearts.

**People:** *We close our ears to distractions.*

Leader: We close our eyes to attractions.

**People:** *We close our hearts to temptations.*

Leader: Calm us, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.

**People:** *Still us, O Lord, keep us from harm.*

Leader: Let all the tumult within us cease.

**People:** *Enfold us, O Lord, in your peace. Amen.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Leader: God of love  
Hear the cry of those who yearn for love  
Fractured families, broken homes  
Neglected, unwanted, alone  
God of love

**People:** *hear our prayer*

Leader: God of justice  
Hear the cry of those who yearn for justice  
Persecuted and oppressed  
Exploited, ill-treated, broken  
God of justice

**People:** *hear our prayer*

Leader: God of peace,  
Hear the cry of those who yearn for peace  
In battle zones and broken states  
Frightened, fearful, anxious  
God of peace

**People:** *hear our prayer*

Leader: God of healing  
Hear the cry of those who yearn for healing  
Physical and spiritual  
Hurting, weakened, depressed  
God of healing

**People:** *hear our prayer*

Leader: The Spirit of our God fills the whole world.  
The Spirit of our God moves over the deep.  
The Spirit of our God warms our hearts.  
The Spirit of our God fills all things.

*Silence*

Leader: Spirit of God, you give life to the world.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you give guidance to all rulers.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you give talents to all peoples.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you direct all artists and craftspeople.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you give strength to the baptized.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you give comfort to the troubled.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

Leader: Spirit of God, you renew your church.

**People:** *Breathe on us, breath of God.*

*Silence:* *Please add your prayers, either silently or aloud.*

### **Concluding Collect**

Leader: You are our shelter, O Lord, a light upon our path, a presence in our darkness, a companion in our travels, there at the journey's end. Hear our prayers and may your mercy be upon us. **Amen.**



Hymn #193 “That Easter day with joy was bright”

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, the  
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed; his  
 3 O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, do  
 4 O Lord of all, with us a - bide in  
 5 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

1 sun shone out with fair - er light, when, to their long - ing  
 2 wound - ed hands and feet he showed; those scars their sol - emn  
 3 thou thy - self our hearts pos - sess that we may give thee  
 4 this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon  
 5 thee, who, dead, a - gain dost live; to God the Fa - ther

1 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.  
 2 wit - ness gave that Christ was ris - en from the grave.  
 3 all our days the will - ing tri - bute of our praise.  
 4 death can wield thine own re - deemed for ev - er shield.  
 5 e - qual praise, and God the Ho - ly Ghost, we raise.

Words: Latin, 5th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*  
 Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571–1621);  
 harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; alt. acc. John F. Erickson (b. 1938)

Closing Prayers *please remain seated*

Leader: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;  
**People:** *For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.*

Leader: Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;  
**People:** *Hide us under the shadow of your wings.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy.  
**People:** *Christ, have mercy,*  
 Leader: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP pg. 364

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.*

Leader: Lord, Hear our prayer;

**People:** *And let our cry come to you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Gracious God, you have called us to serve you.

**People:** *Help us to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.*

*Give us the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries,  
we trust You to be stronger  
than each storm within us.*

*We will trust in the darkness  
and know that our times, even now,  
are in Your hand.*

*Tune our spirits to the music of heaven, and somehow,  
make our obedience count for You. Amen.*

Hymn #180 "He is Risen, He is Risen" (st. 1, 2, 4)

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and  
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
 ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,  
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), alt.

Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

The Dismissal

Leader: Let us pray.

*All: Lord, you now have set your servant free  
 to go in peace as you have promised;*

*For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
 whom you have prepared for all the world to see:*

*A Light to enlighten the nations,  
 and the glory of your people Israel.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Leader: Let us bless the Lord,

*People: Thanks be to God.*

Leader: May you find in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord, a companion for your journey, a sure ground for your hopes, the peace that passes understanding, and the joy that life is eternal; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *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*

Please note that United Thank Offering (UTO)  
boxes are available for pickup in the vestibule at the church.

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP

St. Columba's Episcopal Church will hold in-person worship  
on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

Strict safety measures will be observed.

Reservations may be made beginning Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
by calling Jane Homer at (207) 633-5203.

The Rev. Paul Tunkle will conduct the service with Eucharist,  
using wafers only, and there will be no singing.

The church will accommodate 44 worshippers.

Peace be with you.

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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 Fehlau*

### **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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