

**CELTIC EVENING PRAYER**

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
AND ASCENSION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 16, 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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Hymn #494 "Crown him with many crowns" (st. 1-3)

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!  
 2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and  
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -  
 2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who  
 3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and  
 2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu - man breast, and  
 3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who

1 hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.  
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800–1894)  
 Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816–1893); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Gospel for the Day John 17:6-19

*The Message*

### Jesus' Prayer for His Followers

I spelled out your character in detail  
 To the men and women you gave me.  
 They were yours in the first place;  
 Then you gave them to me,  
 And they have now done what you said.  
 They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt,  
 That everything you gave me is firsthand from you,  
 For the message you gave me, I gave them;  
 And they took it, and were convinced  
 That I came from you.  
 They believed that you sent me.  
 I pray for them.

I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world  
But for those you gave me,  
For they are yours by right.  
Everything mine is yours, and yours mine,  
And my life is on display in them.  
For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world;  
They'll continue in the world  
While I return to you.  
Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life  
That you conferred as a gift through me,  
So they can be one heart and mind  
As we are one heart and mind.  
As long as I was with them, I guarded them  
In the pursuit of the life you gave through me;  
I even posted a lookout.  
And not one of them got away,  
Except for the rebel bent on destruction  
(the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

Now I'm returning to you.  
I'm saying these things in the world's hearing  
So my people can experience  
My joy completed in them.  
I gave them your word;  
The godless world hated them because of it,  
Because they didn't join the world's ways,  
Just as I didn't join the world's ways.  
I'm not asking that you take them out of the world  
But that you guard them from the Evil One.  
They are no more defined by the world  
Than I am defined by the world.  
Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth;  
Your word is consecrating truth.  
In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world,  
I give them a mission in the world.  
I'm consecrating myself for their sakes  
So they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

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 "A hymn of glory let us sing!" (st. 1-4)



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of  
3 To whom . . . shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up -  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals



world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un - to  
And with his faith - ful fol - l'wers see their Lord as - cend  
"This is the Sav - ior!" thus they say, "this is his glo -  
"Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing in



the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



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

**Prayers for the Close of Day** *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 #460 "Alleluia! sing to Jesus!" (st. 1-4)

1 Al - le - lu - ial sing to Je - sus! his the  
 \*2 Al - le - lu - ial not as or - phans are we  
 3 Al - le - lu - ial bread of Hea - ven, Thou on  
 4 Al - le - lu - ial King e - ter - nal, thee the

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ial his the  
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ial he is  
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ial here the  
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ial born of

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the  
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the  
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -  
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a  
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty  
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,  
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery  
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his  
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the  
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)

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

### Ascension Blessing

Go out into the world.  
and in your words and in your lives  
bear witness to the Christ who has ascended  
to be everywhere present.

And as you come to know Jesus,  
may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,  
may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you,  
and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance. **Amen.**

### 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 except for scheduled in-person services by reservation.  
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*

*St. Columba's would like to recognize the 90th birthday of Phil Smith on May 20th.*



*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*

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP

St. Columba's Episcopal Church will hold in-person worship  
next Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m.

Strict safety measures will be observed.

Reservations may be made beginning Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

The church will accommodate 44 worshippers.

Peace be with you.

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

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OUR MISSION

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

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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>

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St. Columba's Church  
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Boothbay Harbor ME 04538

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