

WELCOME

to this collection of prayers, Bible readings and reflections for you to use, not only as you “pray the keeills” of our Island, but also for your own personal prayer in any place, at any time. The material has been arranged into two collections – **MORNING PRAYER** and **EVENING PRAYER** – but we hope you will also choose and combine prayers and readings to suit your individual needs. As you prepare to use this booklet, the following few words of explanation may be helpful ...

SILENCE

Silence is good: too often in our worship every moment is filled with words which are spoken or sung aloud. In silence, space is created to be particularly aware of the presence of God. It is good to have some periods of silence during group and individual prayer times. If the silence follows a reading from Scripture, it may be appropriate to reflect on what has been read. Silences may also be used for personal prayer or simply for seeking God: this too is prayer!

CANTICLE

A canticle is a hymn or song which may be either sung – or said ! Canticles used in Christian worship are often taken from Scripture, but may also be poetic passages based on particular verses or themes from Scripture.

PSALM

A Psalm is a sacred hymn or song. The Old Testament book of Psalms contains 150 of these which have been central to the worship of both Jew and Christian through the ages. The Psalms were thus a very important part of the worship of the Celtic church. Every human emotion is expressed in the Psalms and, as such, their inclusion in daily worship allows those who use them to offer the breadth of their experience of life to God.

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Material is taken from **A CELTIC PRIMER**
The Complete Celtic Worship Resource and Collection
edited and compiled by Brendan O'Malley.

MORNING PRAYER

Sentence

Either

Lord, hear my voice when I call to you. My heart has prompted me to seek your face;
I seek it Lord; do not hide from me, alleluia.

Or

Guide me in your truth and teach me, Lord, for you are the God who saves me
adapted from Psalm 25

Or

The path I walk, Christ walks it,
May the land in which I am be without sorrow.

Or

May the Trinity protect me wherever I stay, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Litany

Either

Have mercy on us O God, Father almighty,
God of hosts,
noble God,
Lord of the world,
unutterable God,
Creator of the elements,
invisible God.
Heavenly Father, you who abide in heaven,
Have mercy on us.

Or

Have mercy on us O God, Father almighty,
God of earth.
God of fire,
God of the waters of wonder.
God of the gusting and blustering air.
God of the many languages found
Throughout the world.
heavenly Father, you who abide in heaven,
Have mercy on us.

Invocation

Lord, be with us this day,
Within us to purify us;
Above us to draw us up;
Beneath us to sustain us;
Before us to lead us;
Behind us to restrain us;
Around us to protect us.

St Patrick

Or

We must get up before the sun to bless you, O God,
And adore you at the break of day.

Wisdom 16.28

Antiphon and Psalmody

O Lord, open my/our lips:
And my/our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Either

Venite (Psalm 95.1–8)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.

In his hands are the depths of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands moulded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would hearken to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness,
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.'

continued...

Glory to the Father and to the Son:
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now:
And shall be for ever.
Amen.

Or

Jubilate (Psalm 100)

Be joyful in the Lord in triumph all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Glory to the Father and to the Son:
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now:
And shall be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Either

O God, you are my God;
Eagerly I seek you, my soul is athirst for you.

Or

All you that thirst come to the waters;
Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Bible Readings

Choose from the following

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 12.1–3

God's call to Abraham

Deuteronomy 1.29–31

The Lord your God will lead you

Amos 9.11–15

Words of hope from the Lord

Micah 4.1–4

A song of universal peace

Micah 6.6–8

What the Lord wants of you

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 11.28–30

Come to me and rest

Mark 12.28–31

The two great commandments

Luke 24.13–35

The Emmaus walk

John 14.27–31

My own peace I give you

Romans 5.6–11

Christ made us his Friends

O Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Jerome

Behold
I make all things
NEW

Rev.
215
07

Silence

The Song of Zechariah - Benedictus Luke 1.68-79

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel:
For he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
Born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies:
From the hands of all that hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our forebears:
And to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:
Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High:
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

To give his people knowledge of salvation:
By the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son:
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now:
And shall be for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen..

Celtic Prayers

Choose from the following.

O God, listen to my prayer,

Let my earnest petition come to you

For I know that you hear me

As surely as I see you with my own eyes.

Gaelic

Almighty God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

to me the least of saints,

to me allow that I may keep even the smallest door,

the farthest, darkest, coldest door,

the door that is least used, the stiffest door.

If only it be in Your house, O God,

that I can see Your glory even afar,

and hear Your voice,

and know that I am with You, O God. Amen

St Columba

O Lord our Father, almighty everlasting God, we ask you to send your holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit, and defend all who dwell in this land; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

Gelasian

Stretch forth, O Lord, the right hand of your mercy upon your servants, that, seeking you with their whole heart, they may have all their needs supplied; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

Gelasian

the silence of eternity. The silence of eternity. The silence of eternity. The silence of eternity.

*Interpreted
by
Love*

the silence of eternity. The silence of eternity. The silence of eternity.

From the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
by John Greenwood Whittier (1807–1882)

Conclusion

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace,
And rise in glory.

May the Divine assistance remain with us always,
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Sentence

Choose from the following.

Keep us safe, O Lord, in the darkness of this night,
for the eternal kingdom, where there is flaming radiance forever.

Early Irish Lyrics

Let us adore the Lord,
Maker of marvellous works,
Bright heaven with its angels,
And on earth the white-waved sea.

Old Irish

May our purpose be strong:
To strive for what is fittest.
Let us all love Jesus,
For this is the highest thing.

from Feilire Oengusso

Lord, O Lord, hear me
Fill my soul, Lord, with Thy love's ray,
Fill my soul, Lord, with Thy love's ray,
Lord, O lord, hear me.

Early Irish

Have mercy on me,
Royal abundant Lord,
Jesus whom I love,
Great God to whom I pray.

from Feilire Oengusso

Remain
in my
LOVE

Prayers of Repentance

Either

Jesus, forgive my sins.

Forgive the sins that I can remember, and also the sins I have forgotten.

Forgive the wrong actions I have committed, and the right actions I have omitted.

Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation, and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.

Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast of your works.

Forgive the harsh judgements I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown to myself.

Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided.

Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown to myself.

Jesus have pity on me, and make me whole.

Early Irish

Or

Fair Lord, I pray to you
concerning my excesses and deficiencies:

grant me forgiveness here

for my misdeeds, my ignorance.

Saltair na Rann

A Hymn of Re-Dedication

(may be sung to any Long Metre tune)

How great the tale, that there should be,

In God's Son's heart, a place for me!

That on a sinner's lips like mine,

The cross of Jesus Christ should shine!

Christ Jesus, bend me to Thy will,

My feet to urge, my griefs to still;

That even my flesh and blood may be

A temple sanctified to Thee.

No rest, no calm, my soul may win,

Because my body craves to sin

Till Thou, dear Lord, Thyself impart

Peace to my head, light to my heart.

May consecration come from far

Soft shining like the evening star!

My toilsome path make plain to me,

Until I come to rest in Thee.

Muredach Albanach, twelfth century

Antiphon and Psalmody

O Lord, open my/our lips:
And my/our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Either

Psalm 90.1–4

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say,
‘Go back, O child of earth.’

For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:

And to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now:

And shall be for ever.

Amen.

Or

Psalm 63.1–9

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.

continued...

My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.
May those who seek my life to destroy it
go down into the depths of the earth;
Glory to the Father and to the Son:
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now:
And shall be for ever.
Amen.

READINGS

*Choose one or more from the following selection.
Evening Prayer continues with The Magnificat on page 21.*

The Christ of Nature

He loved cherry sunsets growing heavy on the branches of the evening;
He loved bud coloured dawns opening from the east's earth.

He loved the sea, green in its happiness, seeking the shore;
He loved to see it languishing back stonily from its crest to its groove.

He loved the character of birds, the flock that trusted in His Father;
He loved lambs, the most skilfully fashioned: the lambs,
the most innocent in their nature.

He loved the beasts of the borders: the ones that dwelt in the wild;
He loved their sure dependence on that which the wilderness provided.

He loved wheat shivering as it became golden and heavy headed with nourishment;
He loved the fortified mountain country, the desolation where peace grew.

He loved the earth, loved it as a lover, because it is God's earth;
He loved it, because it was created by His Father from nothingness to be Life's temple.

*Donald Evans,
Cread Crist, Cyhoeddiadau Barddus, 1986
(trans. Cynthia and Saunders Davies)*

Columba's Affirmation

Alone with none but Thee, my God,
I journey on my way;
What need I fear, when Thou art near,
O king of night and day?
More safe I am within Thy hand,
than if a host did round me stand.

My destined time is fixed by Thee,
and death doth know his hour.
Did warriors strong around me throng,
they could not stay his power;
no walls of stone can man defend
when Thou Thy messenger dost send

My life I yield to Thy decree,
and bow to Thy control
in peaceful calm, for from Thine arm
no power can wrest my soul.
Could earthly omens e'er appal
A man that heeds the heavenly call!

The child of God can fear no ill,
His chosen dread no foe;
we leave our fate with Thee and wait
Thy bidding when we go.
Tis not from chance our comfort springs,
Thou art our trust, O king of kings.

St Columba
(*trans. unknown*)


JOURNEY
INTO
FAITH

God of All

Our God is the God of all,
The God of heaven and earth,
Of the sea and of the rivers;
The God of the sun and of the moon and of all the stars;
The God of the lofty mountains
and of the lowly valleys.
He has His dwelling around heaven and earth,
and sea, and all that in them is.
He inspires all,
He gives life to all,
He dominates all,
He supports all.
He lights the light of the sun.
He furnishes the light of the night.
He has made springs in dry land . . .
He is the God of heaven and earth,
of sea and rivers,
of sun, moon and stars,
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,
the God above heaven,
and in heaven,
and under heaven.

St Patrick

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Psalm 46:10

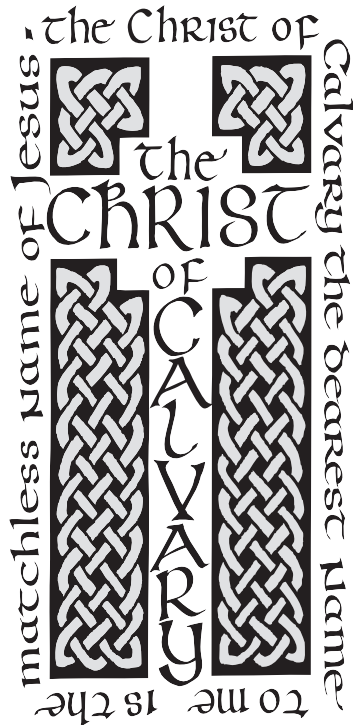
God's Aid

God to enfold me,
God to surround me,
God in my speaking,
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,
God in my waking,
God in my watching,
God in my hoping.

God in my life,
God in my lips,
God in my soul,
God in my heart.
God in my sufficing,
God in my slumber,
God in mine ever-living soul,
God in mine eternity.

Carmina Gadelica



Safina Akiyoshi Aldersey 0126 © 1996

Cosmic Crucifixion

The sun hid its own light; it mourned its Lord;
a sudden darkness went over the blue heavens,
the wild and furious sea roared.

The whole world was dark;
the land lay under gloomy trembling;
at the death of noble Jesus great rocks burst asunder.

Jerusalem swiftly released the dead from ancient burial;
when Christ suffered slaying the veil of the temple was rent.

A stream of blood gushed forth – severe excess – so that the bark of every tree was red;
there was blood on the breasts of the world,
in the tree-tops of every great forest.

It would have been fitting for God's elements,
the beautiful sea, the blue heaven, the present earth,
that they should change their aspect when keening their hero.

The body of Christ pierced by points warranted severe lamentation; – it would be fitting –
that they should keen in a stronger manner the man by whom they were created.

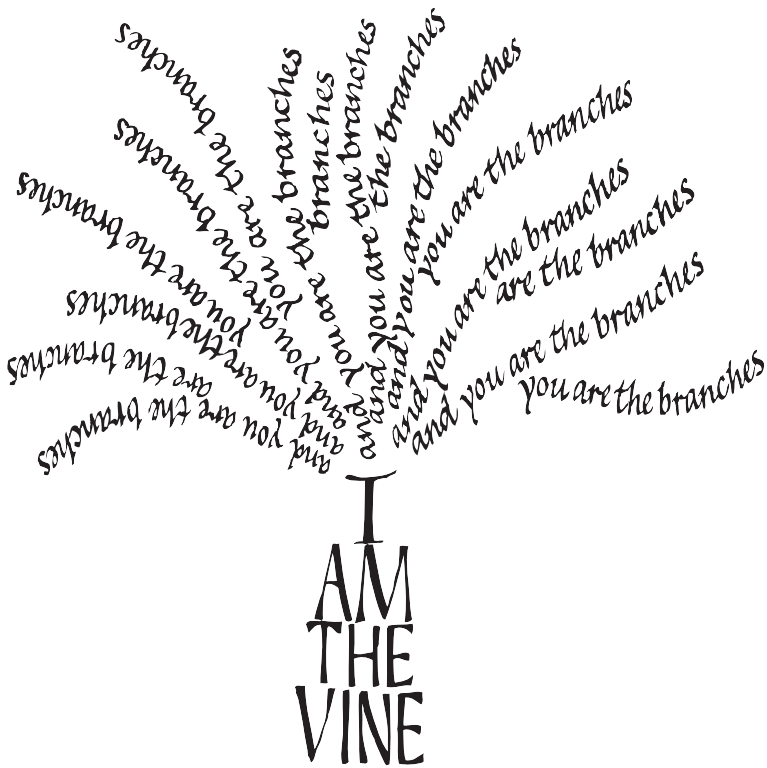
The king was patient at the crucifixion of his only-begotten,
for had his good elements known,
they would have keened sweetly.

That the sky did not fall on them,
that the great fire did not burn them,
that the ocean did not drown them!
Their reproaches would not have been light.

That the heavy earth did not swallow them,
the miserable pack who committed a great crime!
That the hasty people led by Annas and Caiaphas should not have been turned to ashes!

That there were not birds in the stead nor wild beasts on Pilate's land,
because without great fear,
he beat Christ with the scourge.

Blathmac, eighth century



Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit;
for you can do nothing without me. John 15:5

Easter Sunday

Last night did Christ the Sun rise from the dark,
The mystic harvest of the fields of God,
And now the little wandering tribes of bees
Are brawling in the scarlet flowers abroad.
The winds are soft with birdsong; all night long
Darkling the nightingale her descant told,
And now inside church doors the happy folk
The Alleluia chant a hundredfold.
O father of thy folk, be thine by right
The Easter joy, the threshold of the light.

Latin

Lift up your heart
Lift up your voice
Rejoice
again
I say Rejoice

Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)

Saint Mary

Saint Mary, Mother of God,
Preserve for me a child's heart,
Pure and transparent as a spring,
A heart simple and straight,
That will never taste unhappiness.
A devoted heart,
Tender and grateful,
A heart loyal and generous,
That will not forget goodness,
And will not hold on to evil.
Make for me a humble and patient heart,
Loving without expecting a return.
Content to leave in a beloved heart
The first place for your Son.
A lofty and invincible heart,
That no ignorance will be able to close,
That no insensitivity will be able to expend.
A heart wrought with the glory of Christ,
Pierced with His love,
Whose wound would not heal
Except in Heaven.
Anjela Duval, Breton, twentieth century

Gloria

The whole world is full of glory:

Here is the glory of created things,
the earth and the sky,
the sun and the moon,
the stars and the vast expanses:

Here is the fellowship
with all that was created,
the air and the wind,
cloud and rain,
sunshine and snow:

All life like the bubbling of a flowing river
and the dark currents of the depths of the sea
is full of glory.

The white waves of the breath of peace
on the mountains,
and the light striding
in the distances of the sea.

The explosion of the dawn wood-pigeons
and the fire of the sunset doves,
sheep and cattle at their grazing,
the joy of countless creeping things
as they blossom,
spider and ant
of nimble disposition
proclaim the riches of goodness.

To curse life is to err.

The meadows and the yellow corn,
the slopes of the grape clusters,
the sweetness of the apple tree's fruit:

The provision on the tray
of the warm comely seasons
a part of each hard beginning:

The discretion that insists on respect
for all our partners –
all the creatures of our day
and our life in the world for ever.

continued...

Every land, every language,
became bread and wine:

Every labour,
railway stations,
bus stops
at the beginning of journeys,
every aviation:

Every art
under its own fig tree –
the vision of a man and a maid.

Lest treating
the misunderstanding between man
and his world, becomes
a giving way to meaninglessness:

And perchance we shall see the dancing
in the halls of the atoms
and the meddling with their temperament
as an art of the soul.

The coal in the bowels of the vale,
the clear water of the valleys
and the energy of machines' atmosphere:

The secret of fresh airs –
old meanings a cold well:

The delicate breeze
like the sun on the seagull's belly
awakening wings.

All beneficiaries
(unless we spit the original terror of sin on it all)
resounded the Gloria of praise.

*Euros Bowen, Detholion, Yr Academi Gymreig,
1984 (trans. Cynthia and Saunders Davies)*

Canticle – Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;

the Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him:
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm:
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones:
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel:
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

Amen.

★ When the morning stars
★ sang together ★ and
★ all the Sons of GOD
★ shouted for ★
JOY
Job 38:7

Intercessions

For the Church

We pray for all who work through the power of Christ in the Church today, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society.

We pray for all Christians: that they may seek the kingdom of God before all else.

We pray that the Christian churches may grow together towards unity of faith, and witness to the values of the gospel.

For Ourselves

We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us.

We pray for the trust and openness to give our hearts and lives to God as Jesus did.

We pray that we may be a sign of the love of God to all whom we meet.

For Others

We pray for the elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them.

Let us pray for all married couples: that they remain loving and faithful to each other in good times Let us pray for those who are distressed, whether in body, mind or spirit.

We pray for those who have lost hope: that they may find the joy of the Holy Spirit within their hearts.

For the Departed

We pray for the souls of all those whom we have loved but now no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, and rise in glory.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

B E STILL A N D
KNOW
THAT
I AM
G O D
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Conclusion

May Almighty God bless us,
deliver us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.
May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace,
And rise in glory.
May the divine assistance remain with us
always.
And with our absent brothers and sisters.
Amen.

OTHER RESOURCES



PRAYING THE KEEILLS – FREE DVD

A collection of inspirational images, meditative chants, and prayers for you to enjoy whenever you wish. Playable on most domestic DVD players and computer DVD drives, this mixture of superb photographs (many by acclaimed local photographer Victoria Harrop) blended with meditative chants and prayers led by the Reverend Dr Philip Newell, will enable you to PRAY THE KEEILLS from your armchair ... at your desk ... in your House Group ... in your Church ...

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