



## **Celtic Evening Prayer**

*The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
Wednesday in the First Week of Advent  
December 2, 2020*

Lord, as day ends,  
May we rest in the knowledge  
that all things of earth are holy  
and that all people are one in you. Amen.

**In the name of the Father,  
and the of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Confession**

**Lyn:** O God, bring new life where we are worn and tired.  
New love, where we have turned hard-hearted  
Forgiveness where we have wounded.  
And the joy and freedom of your holy spirit  
Where we are prisoners of our selves.

To all and to each  
where regret is real  
God pronounces pardon  
and bids us begin again.

**Thanks be to God.**

Before God, with the people of God,  
I confess my brokenness:  
I confess the ways I wound my life,  
the lives of others,  
the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Wim: Before God, with the people of God,  
we confess our brokenness:  
We confess the ways we wound our lives,  
the lives of others,  
the life of the world.**

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

## Expression of faith

Lord, you have always given bread for the coming day  
and though I am poor  
**Today I believe**

Lord, you have always given  
strength for the coming day  
and though I am weak,  
**Today I believe**

Lord, you have always given peace for the coming day  
and though I am anxious  
**Today I believe**

Lord, you have always kept me safe in trials  
and now, tried as I am,  
**Today I believe.**

Lord, you have always marked the road for the coming day  
and though it be hidden  
**Today I believe**

Lord, you have always lightened this darkness of mine  
and though the night is here,  
**Today I believe**

Lord, you have always spoken when time was ripe  
and though you be silent now,  
**Today I believe.**

## **The Magnificat**

**Luke 1: 46-55**

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,  
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy,  
and he has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation  
to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

He has brought down princes from their thrones  
and exalted the humble.

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

He has helped his servant Israel  
and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **A Reading from the Hebrew Testament : Isaiah 2: 1-11**

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

You, LORD, have abandoned your people,  
the descendants of Jacob.

They are full of superstitions from the East;  
they practice divination like the Philistines  
and embrace pagan customs.

Their land is full of silver and gold;  
there is no end to their treasures.

Their land is full of horses;  
there is no end to their chariots.

Their land is full of idols;  
they bow down to the work of their hands,  
to what their fingers have made.

So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled—  
do not forgive them.

Go into the rocks, hide in the ground  
from the fearful presence of the LORD  
and the splendor of his majesty!

The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled

and human pride brought low;  
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

For the Word of God in scripture  
For the Word of God among us  
For the Word of God within us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle: Christ in Quiet, Christ in Danger**

In the place of stillness,  
in the room of prayer  
    **In the sanctuary of adoration**  
    **In the stilling of the storm**  
in the stilling of our minds,  
Our souls, our bodies  
    **in the peace he gives to us**  
    **in the peace he asks us to share**  
In the storm itself  
in the sinking of the disciple  
    **In the opposition of the enemy**  
    **In the hells and crucifixions**  
in the betrayals and denials  
in the ebbing out of life  
    The Risen Lord is there.  
    **Our Risen Lord is there.**

### **A reading from the gospel of Luke (1: 5-22)**

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's

commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

For the Word of God in scripture

For the Word of God among us  
For the Word of God within us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **An Affirmation of Faith**

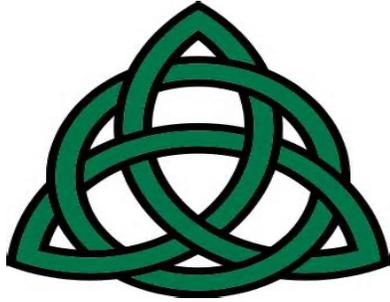
We believe in God,  
Creator and lover of the earth,  
Origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ  
--- God coming to us  
In the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn –  
Who emerges as the herald of hope,  
God's laughter in the face of despair.  
Plunged into death and hell,  
He broke free the captives,  
And is leading the way  
To the land of promise  
Where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Who implants the seed of truth,  
Brings us to birth  
As the body of Christ  
And empowers us  
To confront and transform  
All that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.  
Announced by the Baptist  
It has drawn near to us in Jesus,  
And will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,  
When all who have passed through  
The world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters,  
Robed in righteousness,  
And gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day  
On this day we work and pray:  
Come, Lord, Jesus, Come!



## Prayer for God's people

Move among us, O God; give us life:

**Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us:

**Renew us in mind and in spirit.**

Give us again the joy of your help:

**With your spirit of freedom sustain us.**

Almighty God, Creator of the universe  
at the close of another day we feel helpless  
in the face of our world's suffering:  
yet tonight, once more, we offer  
to you the only thing we have:  
our ordinary, everyday lives.

We ask you to take us into your hands  
that we may be used to bring a flicker  
of mercy and justice into your world:  
a candle for peace.  
And not just tonight, Lord,  
but through the coming days  
as we move in your Spirit of love.

Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all, we hold before you:  
those who have carried pain for many years;  
those who know they have only a short time left to live;  
those who can never leave their chair or bed  
and all those who watch and wait with them this night.

We hold before you those burdened by regrets and anxieties;  
those broken in spirit or in body;  
those torn by relationships and doubt;  
those who feel deeply the divisions and injustices of our world  
and all those who hold them in prayer this night.

We hold before you our lives filled with tasks,  
and voices and responsibilities.  
When we feel gray and lifeless  
may you remind us that each day holds it's own gifts new truths,  
restored vision, inner healing  
and the possibility to forgive ourselves  
and those with whom we struggle.

**Lord, be the gatherer of our dreams.  
the guide of the pilgrim mind  
and of every exploring heart,  
illumine our understanding  
that we may discern your Spirit  
in the midst of all that is new. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall  
and in the crossing of the sea  
guide our feet as we go. **Amen.**

May God, who is with us when we sit  
and when we stand,  
encompass us with love  
and lead us by the hand. **Amen.**

May God, who knows our paths  
and the places where we rest  
be with us in our waiting,  
be our Good News for sharing,  
and lead us in the way that is everlasting.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**