

# Harvest Celtic Communion

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Opening responses

Come Lord, come down,  
Come in, come among us.  
Come as the wind to move us;  
Come as the light to prove us;  
Come as the night to rest us;  
Come as the storm to test us;  
Come as the sun to warm us;  
Come as the stillness to calm us;  
Come Lord, come down,  
Come in, come among us.

To God the Father, who created the world;  
To God the Son, who redeemed the world;  
To God the Holy Spirit, who sustains the world;  
Be all praise and glory, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

### Call to worship

Generous God, seed-time has ripened into harvest,  
your earth has yielded fruits.  
Winter's cleansing cold gave way to spring's  
gentle warmth,  
and now summer's full sun has offered us  
autumn's ripe gifts.

**All Giver of all, we worship you.**

God of goodness, the wonders of your creation,  
the splendour of the heavens,  
the order and richness of nature,  
speak to us of your glory.  
The coming of your Son,  
the presence of your Spirit,  
the fellowship of your church,  
show us the marvel of your love.

**All The patterns of the year,  
the beauty of the earth,  
the fruitful gifts of harvest,  
call us to worship and adore you.**

## Song – Praise With Joy

Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love and peace,  
Source and end of human knowledge,  
Force of greatness without cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory -  
Power to rescue and release.

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,  
Frees the captive, finds the lost,  
Heals the sick, upsets religion,  
Fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence -  
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
Liberating truth from pride,  
Forging bonds where race and gender,  
Age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -  
Foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,  
One God in community,  
Calling Christians to embody  
Oneness and diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe, when  
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.

## Saying Sorry

O God,  
your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,  
**All** **Open our eyes to see.**

O God,  
your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,  
**All** **Open our eyes to see.**

O God,  
your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,  
**All** **Open our eyes to see.**

O God,  
your creatures are slowly dying  
and your people are suffering,

**All** **Open our eyes to see.**

God our maker,  
so move us by the wonders of creation,

**All** **that we repent and care more deeply.**

So move us to grieve the loss of life,

**All** **that we learn to cherish and protect your world.**

As the family of God – children of the Creator,  
brothers and sisters of Jesus, one is Spirit –  
we hear the words of divine grace:  
'Your sins are forgiven, be at peace!'

### **Meditation Music – Everything Must Change**

Ev'rything must change; nothing stays the same.  
Ev'ryone will change; no one stays the same.

The young become the old and myst'ries do unfold,  
'cause that's the way of time;  
nothing' and no one goes unchanged.

There are not many things in life you can be  
sure of except:  
Rain comes from the clouds, sun lights up the sky  
And God is by my side.

Winter turns to Spring, a wounded heart will heal  
But never much too soon.  
Yes, ev'rything must change.

The young become the old and myst'ries do unfold,  
'cause that's the way of time;  
nothing' and no one goes unchanged.

There are not many things in life you can be  
sure of except:  
Rain comes from the clouds, sun lights up the sky  
And God is by my side.

## **Reading – I Corinthians 12.12-27**

Our bodies have many parts, but the many parts make up only one body when they are all put together. So it is with the 'body' of Christ. Each of us is a part of the one body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But the Holy Spirit has fitted us all together into one body.

Yes, the body has many parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. Suppose the whole body were an eye – how then would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?

But that isn't the way God has made us. He has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! So he has made many parts, but still there is only one body.

And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. Yes, we are especially glad to have some parts that seem rather odd! This makes for happiness among the parts, so that the parts have the same care for each other that they do for themselves. If one part suffers, all parts suffer with it, and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad.

Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

## **Reflection**

### **Prayers of Concern**

There is no pain in our hearts or in our planet  
that you do not know,  
for you have touched the lowest places on earth...

Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ,  
the loss of all the beauty that is being killed...

There is no place in the heavens  
that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence,  
for you fill all things...

Give us strength in your victory over death  
to grow into your ways of love,  
which does not despair but keeps sowing the seeds of hope  
and making signs of wholeness...

Under Christ's control  
all the different parts of the body fit together  
and the whole body is held together  
by every join with which it is provided...

Teach us to know our interconnectedness with all things.  
Teach us to grow with each other  
and all living creatures through love...

## Affirmation of Faith

We are God's work of art –  
each one of us a precious gem,  
a marvellous melody,  
a potter's delight.

**All We are God's handiwork –  
woven together in love,  
shaped with infinite compassion,  
painted with incredible beauty.**

We are the church of Jesus Christ –  
diverse in human qualities,  
but united in our call to love God  
with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,  
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**All We are the Body of Christ –  
living in his truth, sharing his peace,  
carrying his hope, embodying his love,  
throughout the world he loved so much.**

We are here to be reminded once more who we are,  
whose we are and what our lives are about.

**All We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered  
to live out the miracle of who we are,  
by the power of God working in and among us.  
We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.**

## Song – For the Healing of the Nations

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

## We are renewed in Communion

Great Creator Spirit, from whom all life comes forth,  
here we gather again with bread and with wine,  
seeking your presence,  
longing once more to be nourished,  
hungering for wholeness in our lives,  
for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.

**All Here we gather with bread and with wine,  
but with more than bread and wine.**

Here we gather with creation's elements all around us.  
With earth, air, fire, and water  
still expanding through the universe,  
with the glory of the sun, the whiteness of the moon,  
the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.

**All Here we gather with bread and with wine,  
but with more than bread and wine.**

So with everything that we see and sense around us,  
with visible and invisible energies that pulse with life,  
we join our souls in the song that vibrates  
throughout the whole of creation:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Among friends, gathered round a table,  
Jesus took bread,  
and, having blessed it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
"This is my body which was given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."  
And he gave the cup to his disciples, saying,  
"This cup is the new relationship with God. Take this and share it.  
I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God."

So now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and this wine, the  
ordinary things of the world through which God continually blesses us.  
And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also  
celebrate God's goodness.

**All Blessed are you, O God, for you bring forth  
The fruits of the earth and the waters of life  
To sustain us each day in body, soul, and spirit.**

Lord Christ, be present with us now  
As we do here what Jesus did in an upstairs room.  
Breathe your Spirit upon us, O God,  
And upon this bread and this wine,  
That they may be heaven's food and drink for us,  
Renewing, sustaining, and making us whole,  
That we may be your body on earth,  
Loving and caring in the world.

**All** With people everywhere we affirm  
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## Invitation to Communion

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.  
It is ready for those who love him  
and who want to love him more.  
So come,  
not because you understand,  
but because you are understood.  
Come,  
not because of how you feel,  
but because God has food for you.  
Come, not because you deserve a place,  
but because Jesus invites you,  
just as you are.

*The bread is shared.*

*Please observe social distancing and the markers on the floor.*

*Please sanitise your hands before taking your face covering off and once you have received, sanitise again before putting it back on.*

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving  
for your love in creation,  
and have shared in the bread and wine of the kingdom;  
by your grace plant within us a reverence  
for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.



## Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,  
the city of our God, the holy place,  
the joy of the whole earth.  
Great is the Lord, in whom we have the victory.  
He aids us against the enemy,  
we bow down on our knees.

And Lord, we want to lift your name on high,  
and Lord, we want to thank you  
for the works you've done in our lives;  
and Lord, we trust in your unfailing love,  
for you alone we God eternal,  
throughout earth and heaven above.

**REPEAT BOTH VERSES  
SHORT INSTRUMENTAL**

And Lord, we want to lift your name on high,  
and Lord, we want to thank you  
for the works you've done in our lives;  
and Lord, we trust in your unfailing love,  
for you alone we God eternal,  
throughout earth and heaven above.

**REPEAT**

for you alone we God eternal,  
throughout earth and heaven above.

## Litany of praise and final blessing

**All** In the beginning God made the world:  
made it and mothered it,  
shaped it and fathered it.

**All** All that is green, blue, deep and growing:  
God's is the hand that created you.

**All** All that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious:  
God's is the hand that created you.

All that crawls, flies, swims, walks or is motionless:  
**All God's is the hand that created you.**

All that screeches, sings, laughs roars or is silent:  
**All God's is the hand that created you.**

All that suffers, lacks, groans or longs for an end:  
**All God's is the hand that created you.**

The world belongs to God,  
The earth and all creation.

**All We bless you,  
God of Seed and Harvest  
And we bless each other  
That the beauty of this world  
And the love that created it  
Might be expressed though our lives  
And be a blessing to others  
Now and always,  
Amen.**