

Harvest/Creationtide Celtic Worship

Sunday 26th September 2021

Opening responses

All We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.

All We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.

All We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

Call to worship

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

All In the beginning, and today, God shapes beauty from chaos.
Today, we respond in praise!

All In the beginning, and today, God speaks.
Today, we speak out.

From the beginning, and for all days,
God sustains with faithfulness.
All **Today, we make our commitment.**

Song – Creation Calls

I have felt the wind blow
Whispering Your name
I have seen your tears fall
When I watch the rain

How could I say there is no God
When all around creation calls
A singing bird, a mighty tree
The vast expanse of open sea

Gazing at a bird in flight
Soaring through the air
Lying down beneath the stars
I feel Your presence there

I love to stand at ocean's shore
And feel the thundering breakers roar
To walk through golden fields of grain
Neath endless blue, horizon's frame

Listening to a river run
Watering the earth
Fragrance of a rose in bloom
A new-born's cry at birth

How could I say there is no God
When all around creation calls
A singing bird, a mighty tree
The vast expanse of open sea

I love to stand at ocean's shore
And feel the thundering breakers roar
To walk through golden fields of grain
Neath endless blue, horizon's frame

I believe
I believe
I believe
I believe

Saying Sorry

All You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose,
I gave them for a moment,
then withdrew them, for the work was hard.

All You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

All You asked for my life that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

All **Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you**
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only in those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me, heal me,
nurture me, empower me,
send me out as an instrument of your peace and justice
that I might take seriously the meaning of servant-leadership.

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

Song – Psalm 23

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still still waters
His goodness restores my soul

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust alone in You
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust alone in You
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me
And Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know

And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust alone in You
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home

Reading – Revelation 22.1-5

Eden Restored.

Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb, right down the middle of the street. The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed. The Throne of God and of the Lamb is at the centre. His servants will offer God service—worshiping, they'll look on his face, their foreheads mirroring God. Never again will there be any night. No one will need lamplight or sunlight. The shining of God, the Master, is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule with him age after age after age.

Reflecting Together

Prayers of Concern

We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted,
Brother Sun whose energy radiates life,
Sister Water who nurtures and revives us,
and co-creatures with whom we live,
and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden.

All Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace,

that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Creative Spirit,

All Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Creative Spirit,

All Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

Creative Spirit,

All Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic,

hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures.

Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise,

freed from the demands to produce and consume

to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough,
and all may be restored.

All Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

During this Season of Creation,

grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet.

Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence.

Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given.

Teach us to be satisfied with enough.

And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth,
send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

All **Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Creative Spirit,

All **Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.**

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer

Parent of Soil and Sky

May our praise reveal your beauty

May your encircling love bear fruit

As sun, rain and snow empower creation

Provide for life, all that sustains,

Free us from stubborn arrogance, and all it brings:

that we enable change for fellow creatures

Save us in the midst of what our kind has brought about:

deliver life from evil

For the seasons, the cycles and the power of life are yours

Now, and through all endings.

Let it be so!

Commitment to Creation Care

We have an opportunity to draw around our hand, write our name and place it on our altar frontal as a pledge to our commitment to caring for creation.

All **Lord of life and giver of hope,**
we pledge ourselves to care for creation, to reduce our waste,
to live sustainably, and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us, that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.

May the commitment we have made this night
be matched by our faithful living.

All **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

All In God we are breathing,
in God we are living,
in God we share the life of all creation.

One We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

All In him God is breathing,
in him God is living,
through him we are reconciled.

We belong to the Holy Spirit,
who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

All In the Spirit love is breathing,
in the Spirit truth is living,
the breath of God always moves us.

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

All In God we are all made,
in Christ we are all saved,
in the Spirit we are all united.

Song – Now the evening falls

Now that evening falls,
Gentle fades the light;
moon replaces sun
And day takes leave of night.

Gratitude we raise
for the day that's done
And for what, tomorrow
Waits to be begun.

Gladly we commit
To God's gracious care
Those we love and long for,
Those whose lives we share.

Glory be to God,
Glory to God's Son
Glory to the Spirit
Ever three in one.

Litany of praise and final blessing

Get up, go on your way!
All Faith makes us fit to heal!

The world now needs to know
All How Christ is flesh for all

As creatures of God's love:
All tread lightly, and with joy

Trust God, learn from the Earth
All We welcome life, where we find home!

As this day is ending may you find rest and refreshment.
May you, when you sleep, dream, and take heed of angels
May you, when you awaken, find the wisdom of a different way
May you, in travelling, tread kindly on the living path
and entrust your destination to God,
that you may dedicate your living to Good News for every creature
through the blessing of God, the Christ, the breath of life.
All Thanks be to God.