

CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

Opening responses

From the rising of the sun
till its setting in the west,
God's holy name be praised.

On the lips of children,
by babies at the breast,
God's holy name be praised.

In the visions of the old
and the dreaming of the young,
God's holy name be praised.

In the banquet hall of heaven
and the forgotten corners of our hearts
God's holy name be praised.

Let all that has life and breath,
praise the Lord.
Amen. We praise the Lord.

Prayer

O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation;
we give you thanks.

For your love for us, wild and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation,
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings;
we give you thanks.

For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion;
we give you thanks.

For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve
we give you thanks.

O God, we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.
**Forgive us when we forget your gift of love
made known to us in Jesus,
and draw us into your presence.**

Readings

O God of the weak,
O God of the lowly,
O God of the righteous,
O shield of your people,
Speak now through your word.

A portion of Scripture is read, followed by a short silence.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

There follows a short reflective passage from one of the books of spiritual writings both old and new, followed by silence.

Prayer

We bow down in adoration
in the sight of God who created us;
in the sight of the Son who died for us;
in the sight of the Spirit who empowers us.

Through your own Son, O Maker of all,
grant us the fullness our lives long for:

love for God,
love from God,
the smile of God,
the grace of God,
the wisdom of God,
the fear of God,
the imagination of God,
and God's purpose in all things.

So may we live in this world
as saints and angels do in heaven.

Each shadow and light,
each day and night,
each moment in kindness,
give us your Spirit.
Amen.

Affirmation of faith

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a 'with us' God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility and live powerfully;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.
Amen.

Prayers

Let us hold before God in confidence:

the ones who laugh when we are funny
and the ones who make us smile at ourselves;

the ones for whom we weep,
and the ones who, in sorrow, weep for us;

the ones who worry that we may be lonely
and the ones who ensure that that does not happen;

the ones who feed our minds and our bodies,
and the ones with whom we share faith and break bread;

the ones who reveal in themselves what is hidden
and the ones who treat as precious all we confide in them;

the ones who, tonight, we want to pray for,
and the ones who, unasked, will pray for us.

A space for silent or open prayer

And let us praise God:
for the One from whom we are sent,
the One to whom we are summoned,
Whose image we are,
Whose flesh we share,
Whose love is all.

Closing Responses

On our heads and on our houses,
the blessing of God.

In our coming and going,
the peace of God.

In our life and believing,
the love of God.

At our end and new beginning,
the arms of God to welcome us
and bring us home. Amen.

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