

## Celtic Morning Prayer

### *Call to worship*

In the beginning  
before time, before people, before the world began,  
**God was.**

Here and now  
among us, beside us,  
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,  
**God is.**

In the future,  
when we have turned to dust  
and all we know has found its fulfilment,  
**God will be.**

Not denying the world, but delighting in it,  
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,  
through Jesus Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
**God was, God is, God will be.**

### *Prayer*

Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place,  
and called its people your children;  
because when things seemed at their worst,  
you came in Christ to bring out the best in us;  
so, gracious God, we gladly say:  
**goodness is stronger than evil,  
love is stronger than hate,  
light is stronger than darkness,  
Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because confusion can reign inside us,  
despite our faith;  
because anger, tension, bitterness and envy  
distort our vision;  
because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion;  
because we do not always get it right,  
we want to believe:  
**goodness is stronger than evil,  
love is stronger than hate,  
light is stronger than darkness,  
Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because you have promised to hear us,  
and are able to change us,  
and are willing to make our hearts your home,  
we ask you to confront,  
control, forgive and encourage us,  
as you know best.

*(Pause)*

Then let us cherish in our hearts  
that which we proclaim with our lips:  
**goodness is stronger than evil,**  
**love is stronger than hate,**  
**light is stronger than darkness,**  
**Truth is stronger than lies.**

Lord, hear our prayer and change our lives  
until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes  
all things new.  
**Amen.**

### ***The Word of God***

In the beginning was the Word;  
**and the Word was with God,**  
**and the Word was God.**

A reading from .....

*(The Scripture is read)*

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.**

### ***Prayers***

Holy God,  
though this world depends on your grace, it is governed and tended by mortals.

So we pray for those who walk the corridors of power  
in the parliaments of this and other lands,  
whose judgements we value or fear.

*(Names may be said aloud)*

May they always consider those they represent,  
make decisions with courage and integrity,  
and resist any temptation to abuse the trust placed in them.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who hold key positions  
in the world of finance, business and industry,  
whose decisions may profit some or impoverish others.

*(Names may be said aloud)*

May they always value people higher than profit;  
may they never impose burdens on the poor which they would not carry themselves;  
and may they never divorce money from morality or ownership from stewardship.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those in caring professions,  
who look after and listen to kind, cruel and cantankerous folk,  
and for those who make decisions regarding the nation's health and welfare.

*(Names may be said aloud)*

May they always sense the sanctity of life and every person's uniqueness;  
may they help and heal by their interest as well as their skill;  
and may they be saved from tiredness and an excess of demands.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

And let us remember those for whom we are responsible  
and to whom we are accountable in what we do today.

*(Names may be said aloud)*

May we show to them the thoughtfulness of tolerance  
and kindness of Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord, hear our prayers,  
and if today we might be the means by which you answer the prayers of others,  
then may you find us neither deaf nor defiant,  
but keen to fulfil your purpose,  
for Jesus' sake.

**Amen.**

*Closing responses*

From where we are  
to where you need us,

**Jesus now lead on.**

From the security of what we know  
to the adventure of what you will reveal,

**Jesus now lead on.**

To refashion the fabric of this world  
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

**Jesus now lead on.**

Because good things have been prepared  
for those who love God,

**Jesus now lead on.**

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