

# A Celtic Ewentide Service

Come as you are, for God's embrace is wide.



## *About this service:*

Celtic spirituality comes to us from Scotland, Ireland, North Umbria and the coastal islands. Out of their long experience of living under harsh conditions and political threat, the Celtic nations remind us to "expect the morning light." Light in darkness, hope in despair, life in death, is their constant theme. Characterized with these words, passed down through generations:

***It is better to light a candle  
than to curse the darkness.***

Our days are often rushed, stressful and noisy.  
It's our hope that this evening will offer us gracious space  
and a time of intentional calm.  
May we enjoy beautiful music, light candles,  
and lift prayers for ourselves,  
those we love,  
and the well-being of the world.

We are delighted that you are here.

**Prelude**

*Jeff Trippe and Friends*

**Welcome to St. Bart's**

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley*

**Opening Hymn 370** *(Please stand.)*  
*I bind unto myself today*

*St. Patrick's Breastplate*

**Opening Sentence**

*Ninth Century, Old Irish*

Let us adore the Lord,  
Maker of marvelous works,  
Bright heaven with its angels,  
And on earth the white-waved sea.

**First Reading**

*The Inner History of a Day*

*John O'Donohue*

No one knew the name of this day;  
Born quietly from deepest night,  
It hid its face in light,  
Demanded nothing for itself,  
Opened out to offer each of us  
A field of brightness that traveled ahead,  
Providing in time, ground to hold our footsteps  
And the light of thought to show the way.

The mind of the day draws no attention;  
It dwells within the silence with elegance  
To create a space for all our words,  
Drawing us to listen inward and outward.

We seldom notice how each day is a holy place  
Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens,  
Transforming our broken fragments  
Into an eternal continuity that keeps us.

Somewhere in us a dignity presides  
That is more gracious than the smallness  
That fuels us with fear and force,  
A dignity that trusts the form a day takes.

So at the end of this day, we give thanks  
For being betrothed to the unknown  
And for the secret work  
Through which the mind of the day  
And wisdom of the soul become one.

## Antiphon and Psalmody

### Antiphon

*Brendan O'Malley*

*All:*       **All you that thirst come to the waters;  
Seek the Lord while he may be found.**

**Psalm 63:1-8** (*Said alternately by left and right sides of the congregation.*)

*Left side:*   O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

*Right side:* Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

*Left side:*   For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

*Right side:* So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.

*Left side:*   My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

*Right side:* When I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

*Left side:*   For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.

*Right side:* My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.

### Antiphon

*Brendan O'Malley*

*All:*       **All you that thirst come to the waters;  
Seek the Lord while he may be found.**

**Hymn 645** (*Please stand.*)

***The King of love my shepherd is***

*St. Columba*

## Second Reading

### The Gospel: Luke 8:22-25

NRSV

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

### Today's Meditation

*Frances J. Roberts*

If I chose to hide you away, it is for a reason.  
I have brought you to this place.  
Drink in the silence. Seek solitude.

Listen to the silence.

It will teach you. It will build strength  
Let others share it with you.  
It is little to be found elsewhere.  
Silence will speak more to you in a day  
than the world of voices can teach you in a lifetime.  
Find silence. Find solitude – and having discovered her riches,  
bind her to your heart.

## Silence

### Prayer Response

#### *I Weave a Silence*

*Anonymous*

I weave a silence on to my lips,  
I weave a silence into my mind,  
I weave a silence within my heart.  
I close my ears to distractions,  
I close my eyes to attractions,  
I close my heart to temptations.  
Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm.  
Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.  
Let all the tumult within me cease.  
Enfold me Lord in your peace.

**Hymn 482** *(Please stand.)*  
**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy**

*Slane*

**Prayers and Candle Lighting**

*Introduction to the candle lighting: You are invited to come forward to light a candle, naming your prayers or concerns, hopes or thanksgivings either aloud or silently.*

Lighten our darkness, Lord.  
Let the light of Your presence  
dispel the shadows of night.

**Celtic Music During Candle Lighting**

*Jeff Trippe and friends*

***Prayer for the Blessing of the Land and of Life***

*Ninian of Whithorn*

In the strong name of Jesus  
we bless all that is living,  
and recognize in all that lives  
the reflection of the Word,  
who said

'Let there be life',  
and it lives.

Teach us to care for  
all that is entrusted to us,  
and nurture every sign of Your presence.  
Circle our dear ones in Your love  
and blessing; and protect us all from evil and from danger.

Give us open eyes to see beyond what others say is possible.  
Give us the insight to recognize and name deceit.

May the blessing of our love  
and our strong joy in blessing  
call out new growth  
in everyone we know and meet.

Give us a generosity  
that pushes back the boundaries,  
for even death  
by You has been defeated.  
With all our powers  
we find our power in You.

The Light shines on,  
and life is lived in You.

## **Anthem**

*God be in my head*

*Lytlington*

## **Closing Prayers**

*Leader:* The God of life with guarding hold you;  
the loving Christ with guarding fold you;  
the Holy Spirit, guarding, mold you;  
each night of life to aid, enfold you;  
each day and night of life uphold you.

*All:* **May God shield me;  
may God fill me;  
may God keep me;  
may God watch me;  
may God bring me this night  
to the nearness of His love.  
Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*To Come Home to Yourself*

*John O'Donohue*

May all that is unforgiven in you  
Be released.

May your fears yield  
Their deepest tranquilities.

May all that is unlived in you  
Blossom into a future  
Graced with love.  
Amen.

## **Closing Hymn 686**

*Come, thou fount of every blessing*

*Nettleton*

## **Dismissal**

*Leader:* The peace of the Father of joy,  
the peace of the Christ of hope,  
the peace of the Spirit of grace,

*All:* **the peace of all peace  
be mine this night  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

Resources:

*To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*, by John O'Donohue.  
Published by Doubleday, 2008.

*A Celtic Primer, The Complete Celtic Worship Resource and Collection*  
edited and compiled by Brendan O'Malley. Published by Canterbury Press  
Norwich, 2002.

*Celtic Daily Prayer; Prayers and Readings from the Northumbrian  
Community.* Frances J. Roberts; Anonymous; Ninian of Whithorn;  
Published by Harper Collins, 2002.

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*We give thanks for the music provided today by:*

*Jeff Trippe and friends*

*John Corrie*

*St. Bart's Choir*

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church*  
*The Rev. Kate Dalton, Senior Pastor, First Parish Congregational Church*  
*The Rev. Geoff Parker, Pastor, Foreside Community Church*

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*Please join us for the remaining services in this Lenten series:*

March 22 - First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth (7pm)

April 8 - Foreside Community Church (7pm)



The Episcopal Church in Maine  
Strengthening communities of faith for God's Mission

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Sunday Services: 8AM & 10AM

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