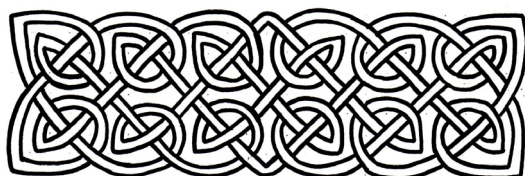


The Rhythms of the Celtic Way of Prayer



Celtic Christians do not see prayer as a sector of life, nor is worship limited to Sabbath time. Prayer is a way of life and each day, season, and round of work are the contexts for prayer. They do not simply “say” prayers; they want to be persons of prayer.

The rhythm of each day

Blessing of the Kindling

I will kindle my fire this morning

In the presence of the holy angles of heaven,

In the presence of Ariel of the loveliest form,

In the presence of Uriel of the myriad charms,

Without malice, without jealousy, without envy,

Without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun,

But the Holy son of God to shield me,

Without malice, without jealousy, without envy,

Without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun

But the Holy Son of God to shield me.

God, kindle Thou in my heart within

A flame of love to my neighbor,

To my foe, to my friend, to my kindred all,

To the brave, to the knave, to the thrall,

O Son of loveliest Mary,

From the lowliest thing that lives,

To the Name that is highest of all.

O Son of loveliest Mary,

From the loveliest thing that lives,

To the Name that is highest of all.

Prayer at Dressing

Bless to me, O God, my soul and my body;

Bless to me, O God, my belief and my condition;

Bless to me, O God, my heart and my speech;

And bless to me, O God, the handling of my hand.

Strength and busyness of morning,

Habit and temper of modesty,

Force and wisdom of thought,

And Thine own path, O God of virtues,

Till I go to sleep this night;

Thine own path, O God of virtues,

Till I go to sleep this night.

Smoothing the Fire at Night

The Sacred Three,

To save, to shield, to surround

the hearth, the house, the household;

This eve, this night, Oh! This eve, this night,

And every night, each single night. Amen.

Bed Blessing

I am lying down tonight,

With Mary mild and with her Son,

With the Mother of my King,

Who is shielding me from harm.
I will not lie down with evil,
Nor shall evil lie down with me,
But I will lie down with God,
And God will lie down with me.

The Rhythm of Christ-centered Living

Jesus the Encircler

Jesu! Only-begotten Son and Lamb of God the
Father,

Thou didst give the wine-blood of Thy body to
buy me

from the grave.

My Christ! My Christ! My shield, my encircler,

Each day, each night, each light, each dark;

My Christ! My Christ! My shield, my encircler,

Each day, each night, each light, each dark.

Be near me, uphold me, my treasure, my
triumph,

In my lying, in my standing, in my watching in
my sleeping.

Jesu, Son of Mary! My helper, my encircler,

Jesu, Son of David, my strength everlasting;

Jesu, Son of Mary! My helper, my encircler,
Jesu, Son of David! My strength everlasting.

To be Centered in Christ

The shape of Christ be towards me,
The shape of Christ be to me,
The shape of Christ be before me,
The shape of Christ be behind me,
The shape of Christ be over me,
The shape of Christ be under me,
The shape of Christ be with me,
The shape of Christ be around me,
On Monday and on Sunday;
The shape of Christ be around me,
On Monday and on Sunday.

To be Pure in Heart

May mildness be on my lips,
May kindness be on my face,
May chasteness be in my desire,
May wisdom be in my purpose.

Prayers for Personal Confession

A cause of grief is sin.

A cause of anguish is death.

A cause of joy is repentance

And cleansing in the river of health.

There will be joy among the angels of
heaven

That I am laved in the pool of confession.

O my soul be joyful,

God is willing to be reconciled to thee,

Seize His hand while it is stretched out

To announce to thee a loving
reconcilement.

A Prayer of Resolve

God's will would I do;

my own will bridle.

God's due would I give;

my own due yield.

God's path I would travel;

my own path refuse.

Christ's death I would ponder;

my own death remember;
Christ's agony I would meditate;
my love to God make warmer.
Christ's cross I would carry;
my own cross forget.
Repentance of sin would I make;
early repentance choose.
A bridle to my tongue I would put;
a bridle on my thoughts I would keep.
God's judgment would I judge;
my own judgment guard.
Christ's redemption I would seize;
my own ransom work.
The love of Christ would I feel;
my own love know.

God Dwells Within

For every thought of beauty:
for every thought that yields the vision
of the inner quiet which may be ours
through our glad acceptance of it:

for every thought
which cast the light of Thy purpose
upon the pilgrim way
we make Thee praise.

**A Prayer After Receiving the Body and Blood of
Christ**

Heaven is intertwined with earth. Alleluia!

We have taken the divine life into ourselves.
Alleluia!

And so now each may say:

I rise up clothed in the strength of Christ.

I shall not be imprisoned; I shall not be harmed.

I shall not be down-trodden, I shall not be left
alone;

I shall not be tainted, I shall not be overwhelmed;

I go clothed in Christ's white garments;

I go freed to weave Christ's patterns;

I go loved to serve Christ's weak ones;

I go armed with Christ's truth and compassion.

*From A Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition, St. Aidan Trust, Red Hill Christian
Center, Snitterfield, Stratford-on-Avon, CV37 0PQ, England.*

(Celtic knot work on first page by David Keller)