

## **Celtic Evening Prayer 24 February 2021**

### **Opening Prayer**

Peace on each one who comes in need, peace on each one who comes in joy.

Peace on each one who offers prayers, peace on each one who offers song.

Peace of the maker, Peace of the Son. Peace of the Spirit, the Triune One.

### **Profession of Faith**

Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day, and though I am poor, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day, and though I am weak, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day, and though I am anxious of heart, today I believe.

Lord You have always kept me safe in trials, and now, tired as I am, today I believe.

Lord, you have always marked the road for the coming day, and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Lord, you have always lightened this darkness of mine, and though the night is here, today I believe.

Lord, you have always spoken when time was ripe, and though you be silent now, today I believe.

### **Readings**

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. (Ps 139: 11-12)

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Romans 13: 11-14)

### **Meditation**

Easy is the way that leads to life, through the gates of the kingdom, where admission is free and the Father runs to greet you with a kiss. Easy is the way that leads to life, but few there be that believe it.

For the other way is hard and seems more fitting – the way of discipleship and self-denial, the hair shirt and the bed of nails; the way of ritual and right religion, fine prayers and costly gifts; the moral way of strenuous goodness and careful respectability; the intellectual way of tortuous reason, intense debate and learned books and the earnest search for truth.

But that way, that broad and steep way, that proud and noble highway, is the way that leads to destruction in the depths of despair, where all is vanity.

It is the easier way that leads to life; the way of acceptance; the narrow way that allows us to bring no gifts, but empty-handed to receive from God.

This is the way of the bird with the air; the way of the fish with the sea; the way of the seed with the soil and the rain. It is the way of the child with the baptismal waters. For as we came into the world naked, so must we enter the kingdom of God, to be born again into his family.

Easy is the way that leads to life – if it is easy to leave behind all the clutter of self-justification, and enter into the kingdom with nothing.

### **Canticle**

Christ as a light, illumine and guide me. Christ as a shield o'ershadow me. Christ under me, Christ over me, Christ beside me, On my left and my right. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak. This day be within and without me, lowly and meek yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light, Christ as a shield, Christ beside me, on my left and my right.

### **Blessing**

Let nothing disturb thee, nothing affright thee; all things are passing. God never changeth! Patient endurance attaineth to all things; who God possesseth. In nothing is wanting: alone God sufficeth.