



Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

## **Celtic Prayer & Communion**

-The Winter Liturgy-

The Virtual Chapter House  
via Zoom on Thursday mornings at 9 AM (Pacific)

Find us on the web: [www.Epiclesis.org](http://www.Epiclesis.org)

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# *Small Boat, Great Big Sea Communion*

Thursday Morning Celtic Prayer & Communion  
-The Winter Liturgy-

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ALL: +In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Opening Sentences

ALL: We have come to seek You, O God,  
just as we are, we come.  
We have come to be sought by You,  
just as we are, we come.

I will wait for the Lord.  
My soul waits, and in His word do I hope.

## Confession

Leader: There is one God and one mediator between heaven and earth,  
the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people.

Whoever is on the Lord's side let them join with me,  
that we may come to the visions of God.

ALL: Create a clean heart within me, O God,  
so that it may become Your chosen shelter,  
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.

Holy God,  
Holy and Strong,  
Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy on us.

*Pause in Silence*

ALL: Holy God,  
    Holy and Strong,  
        Holy and Immortal,  
            have mercy on us.

*Pause in Silence.*

ALL: Holy God,  
    Holy and Strong,  
        Holy and Immortal,  
            have mercy on us.

*Pause in Silence.*

ALL: +I make the cross of Christ upon my breast,  
and I ask the living God of the universe  
that the Light of lights banish my darkness  
so that I may live in the resurrection power of Your love.

Leader: The journey from death to life is ours through Jesus Christ,  
by the strength, power and mercy of divine love.

Wherever our path has taken us in the past, today is a new day  
in the eyes of the Lord. Let us live in it as children of light.

## Declaration of Faith

ALL: Lord, I will trust You.  
    Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
        and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
    and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries,  
    can I trust You to be stronger than each storm in me?

(Turn right away >>)

I determine amidst all uncertainty,  
always to trust.

I choose to live beyond regret  
and let You recreate my life.

I believe You will make a way for me and provide for me,  
if only I trust You.

I will trust, even in the darkness,  
and know that my times are still in Your hand.

I will believe You for my future, chapter by chapter,  
until all the story is written.

## Scripture Reading for the Day

*Pause in Silence.*

## Meditation and/or Readings for the Day

*Pause in Silence.*

### The Beatitudes

Leader: My brothers and sisters,  
let us recall the blessings spoken of by our Lord Jesus Christ:

Blessed are the poor in spirit;  
**ALL: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn;  
**for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek;  
**for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
**for they shall be well filled.**

Blessed are the merciful;  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart;  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers;  
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness' sake;  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Prayers for Ourselves and Others

### The Lord's Prayer

### Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Father hold you,  
the peace of Christ encircle you,  
and the disturbance of the Spirit reveal to you peace in the stranger.

My brothers and sisters,  
the peace of God be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

(The liturgy continues >>)

## Communion

Leader: The Lord is here.

**ALL: God's Spirit is with us.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Leader: Praise be to you, our Father, for Your Son Jesus Christ. He lived and died for love for us, and, after rising from the dead, yet more wonderfully met with His disciples.

He walked with them, taught them and shared supper with them. He ascended into heaven and through the power of the Holy Spirit He is with us now.

Therefore we join the saints and angels echoing Your praise throughout the world and saying:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Praise and thanks to You, Father in heaven, for on the night on which he was betrayed, Your Son Jesus Christ took bread and gave thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Taking the cup of wine, he said, "This is my Blood shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

(Turn right away >>)

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died,  
Christ has risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Leader: As we remember His death on the cross, His sacrifice made once for all to save us, we rejoice in His living presence.

Send Your Holy Spirit, that the bread that we break and cup that we bless may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unite us with Him and with all God's people in heaven and earth.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

If you are thirsty, drink the Fount of Life. If you are hungry, eat the Bread of Life. Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread and thirst for this Fount.

*Communion is shared.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**ALL: Almighty God,  
from whose love nothing can part us,  
I thank You for this bread of life, my God.  
I am a traveler and stranger in the world,  
like so many of Your people before me.**

I trust it is Your voice I hear,  
the call of the Spirit,  
the cry of the Bird of Heaven.

I offer You my "yes" to risky living....  
The sea takes me;  
where I do not know,  
but I gladly go.

(The liturgy concludes >>)



## Blessing

Leader: When you no longer know how to be,  
may the Father take you on your deeper journey.  
When you no longer know what to do,  
may the Spirit reveal to you your fitting task.  
When all feels lost or foreign,  
may you know your home in Christ.

On the path that is before you,  
may you have compassion for the journey,  
may you find Christ in the stranger,  
and may you know the love and blessing of God.

ALL: +In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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### *About the “Small Boat, Great Big Sea Communion” Liturgy:*

*This communion liturgy was inspired by the story of St. Brendan, a saint who made a physical journey out into the vast wilderness of the ocean with a small boat and a simple prayer, “Christ of the mysteries, can I trust you on the sea?” As Brendan and his companions battled with wave and tide, answering their call to risky living, Brendan explored a deep and challenging inner journey and discovered a profound truth: no matter how foreign a place or situation was, he was always “at home” because he had his home in Christ. As we share communion together in this Brendan-inspired liturgy, may we know something more of this home that we share.*

Art credit right: St. Brendan the Navigator. Icon. Artist unknown.



This liturgy has been taken from *Celtic Daily Prayer: Book Two: Farther Up and Farther In* from the Northumbria Community. We encourage you to get a personal copy of this wonderful resource. V.3