



## Celtic Prayer and Communion

### *Liturgy for Summer*

*The Virtual Chapter House*

Via Zoom on Thursday mornings at 9 AM (Pacific)

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Worshiping Sundays at 10:30 AM, at the

Carmichael Chapel

4600 Winding Way; Sacramento, CA; 95841

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

# *Celtic Prayer & Communion for Summer*

Thursday Morning Worship at Epiclesis

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

## **Invocation**

Leader: O God, You are the Lord of the summer and of all seasons, of both short days and long; the Lord, surely, of all our days.

ALL: God beyond time, yet incarnate in time,  
we invoke Your name and welcome Your presence.

## **A Prayer of Confession and Petition**

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: God, most merciful and compassionate,  
we confess to You  
our holding on to regrets and resentments,  
our indifference to Your seasons, times, and creation, and  
our self-absorption that misses both Your tender moments  
and gentle persuasions.

As the season changes from spring to summer,  
then lengthens into the warm weeks of sunny weather,  
we welcome the coming of the longest days of the year  
and walk in them with joy until seasons change again.

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*From rocky henge to highest tor,  
over the sea, across the moor;  
As the sun shines brighter, longer hours  
our Triune God reigns over us in power.  
What will we make of these long days,  
before the height of summer fades?  
May we bring You our grateful praise  
and honor You in all our ways.*

Leader: Pour down upon us from heaven  
the rich blessing of Your forgiveness.  
Grant to us, O Saviour of Glory,  
the fear of God,  
the love of God and His affection,  
and the will of God to do on earth at all times  
as angels and saints do in heaven.

**ALL:** Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be ages unto ages. Amen.

*Pause and ponder.*

# A Paean of Praise

ALL: I praise the Bread of Life, the true manna;

In Him our deepest hungers are satisfied now and forevermore (John 6:35).

I praise the Light of the world who leads all who follow Him out of darkness into the light of Life (John 8:12).

I praise the Door of the sheep;

All who came before Him were thieves and robbers, but He is the real door to soul nourishment and safety, always available (John 10:7-9).

I praise the Good Shepherd who gives His very life for the sheep;

I know Him and He knows me (John 10:11, 14);

He loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

I praise the Resurrection and the Life, who overwhelmed death and shares that victory with me (John 11:25).

I praise the True Vine who is my very life source;

Attached to Him I flourish; detached I wither (John 15:1-5).

I praise the Way, the Truth, and the Life, who is the real route to life everlasting, and to the Father's home where He prepares a place for me (John 14:6).



# Scripture Reading for the Day

*Pause and ponder.*

## Daily Reading & Meditation

*Pause and ponder.*

## Prayers for Others

## The Lord's Prayer

## Credo

ALL: There is no other God— there never was and there never will be— than God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, the Lord of the Universe, as we have been taught;

And His Son, Jesus Christ, whom we declare to have always been with the Father— and to have been begotten spiritually by the Father in a way that baffles description— before the beginning of the world, before all beginnings; and by Him are made all things visible and invisible.

He was made man, defeated death, and was received into heaven by the Father, who has given Him power over all names in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and every tongue will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Lord God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, who proceeds from the Father, and who, with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified.

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We believe in the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will judge the living and the dead. He has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us in abundance: The gift and guarantee of life eternal to come, who makes those who believe and obey to be children of God and joint heirs with Christ.

We acknowledge and adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God— the one and the three— the Trinity of the Holy Name. Amen.

## Passing of the Peace

Leader: Christ, King of Tenderness,  
Christ, King of Tenderness,  
bind us with a bond that cannot be broken.  
Bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken.  
My brothers and sisters,  
the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

## Communion

Leader: The Lord is with us.

**ALL:** And His Spirit is here.

Leader: Blessed are You, Lord God of the universe, our Father, for ever and ever; for through Your goodness we have these gifts of bread and wine which the earth has given and human hands have prepared. May they become for us the food and drink of eternal life.

**ALL:** Bless the King of all the earth!  
Holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

Leader: When the Saviour of the world was stretched out on the tree of death, the very elements themselves erupted and earth gave up its dead. The blood of our Christus Victor, spilled on the earth, transformed earth and heaven. May His blood and body change us and transform us.

**ALL:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
May His body and blood change us and transform us.

Leader: On the very night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave You thanks, Heavenly Father. He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is My body which is given to you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, He took the cup and gave You thanks, Heavenly Father. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you. This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

Leader: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in Your tender mercy, send the Spirit of the Lamb.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of my sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us Your peace.

If you are hungry, eat the bread of Life.

If you are thirsty, drink the Fount of Life.

Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread and thirst for this Fount.

*Communion is shared.*

(The liturgy concludes on page 7>>)

## After Communion

**ALL:** I bless you [each person's name] in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Sacred Spirit:  
The One and the Three.  
May God give you to drink of his cup;  
may the sunshine of summer be bright upon you;  
may the cool, night breezes of the season call down peace;  
and when you come to his household,  
may the door be open wide for you to go into your joy.

Leader: Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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### ***About this Prayer and Communion Liturgy..***

*This liturgy was taken and adapted from two favorite sources for our Thursday morning gatherings, Celtic Daily Prayer, Books 1 & 2.*

*The first portion of this liturgy comes from Book 2 in a section originally meant to be used at daybreak at the time of the summer solstice (p.997). I especially loved the poetic nature of what I have here titled "A Prayer of Confession and Petition" and adapted it for summertime use.*

*The rest of the liturgy is taken from Book 1, "Communion" (p.76). I have adapted portions here as well (e.g. added, in the Creed, a more fulsome statement on the Trinity using traditional language) and some original material was truncated to fit our time and formatting. The section in this present liturgy titled "A Paeon of Praise" ("paeon" means a song or lyric poem of triumph or thanksgiving). This portion of the liturgy was conceived and adapted by Jay Dudley. —Pastor Chris*