

A CELTIC EVENING LITURGY, 17 January 2021

Opening Responses

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very dark,
God said, 'Let there be light'

ALL: AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

(The sign of light - a lighted candle is placed on the table)

Leader: In the beginning, when it was very quiet,
The Word was with God

ALL: AND WHAT GOD WAS, THE WORD WAS.

(The sign of the Word - an open Bible is placed on the table)

Leader: When the time was right God sent the Son.

ALL: HE CAME AMONG US, HE WAS ONE OF US.

(The sign of the Son - a cross is placed on the table)

Chant: Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of All *(Common Ground No.75)*

Leader: In the beginning, God made the world,

ALL: MADE IN LOVE FOR MAN AND WOMAN;

Leader: The earth was filled with lovely things,

ALL: MADE IN LOVE FOR MAN AND WOMAN;

Leader: Out of the dust God made new creatures,

ALL: MADE IN LOVE FOR MAN AND WOMAN;

Leader: These, God said, were in God's image,

ALL: MADE IN LOVE FOR MAN AND WOMAN;

Leader: And to the world there came God's Son,

ALL: KING OF LOVE, FOR MAN AND WOMAN.

Song by All Lord, make me know your ways *(Common Ground No. 77)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Thanks be to you O Christ,

**ALL: FOR THE MANY GIFTS YOU HAVE BESTOWED ON US,
EACH DAY AND NIGHT, EACH SEA AND LAND,
EACH WEATHER FAIR, EACH CALM, EACH WILD.**

Leader: Each night may we remember your mercy
given so gently and generously.

**ALL: EACH THING WE HAVE RECEIVED, FROM YOU IT CAME;
EACH THING FOR WHICH WE HOPE, FROM YOUR LOVE IT WILL COME;
EACH THING WE ENJOY, IT IS OF YOUR BOUNTY;
EACH THING WE ASK, COMES OF YOUR DISPOSING.**

Leader: O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,

**ALL: GRANT THAT NO TIE OVER STRICT, NO TIE OVER DEAR,
MAY BE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THIS WORLD. AMEN.**

Psalm 61

Confession

Leader: O God, Your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

ALL: OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE.

Leader: God our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

ALL: THAT WE REPENT AND CARE MORE DEEPLY.

Leader: So move us to grieve the loss of life,

ALL: THAT WE LEARN TO CHERISH AND PROTECT YOUR WORLD.

Song by All Safe in the shadow of the Lord (*Common Ground No. 106*)

Affirmation of Faith

**ALL: WE BELIEVE, O GOD OF ALL GODS,
THAT YOU ARE THE ETERNAL GOD OF LIFE.
WE BELIEVE, O GOD OF ALL GODS,
THAT YOU ARE THE ETERNAL GOD OF LOVE.**

Men: We believe, O God and Maker of all creation,
That you are the creator of the high heavens,
That you are the creator of the deep seas,
That you are the creator of the stable earth.

Women: We believe, O God of all the peoples,
That you created our souls and set their warp,
That you created our bodies and gave them breath,
That you made us in your own image.

**ALL: WE ARE GIVING YOU WORSHIP WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES,
WE ARE GIVING YOU ASSENT WITH OUR WHOLE POWER,
WE ARE GIVING YOU OUR EXISTENCE WITH OUR WHOLE MIND,
WE ARE GIVING YOU KNEELING WITH OUR WHOLE DESIRE.**

Prayers of Concern

Leader: O Christ, kindle in our hearts within
A flame of love to our neighbour,
To our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.

**ALL: O CHRIST OF THE POOR AND THE YEARNING,
FROM THE HUMBLEST THING THAT LIVES
TO THE NAME THAT IS HIGHEST OF ALL,
KINDLE IN OUR HEARTS WITHIN A FLAME OF LOVE.**

Song by All Come, my way, my truth, my life (*Common Ground No. 24*)

Poem

Closing Responses

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us,
ALL: WE BELONG TO THE EARTH.

Leader: This we know, all things are connected,
ALL: LIKE THE BLOOD THAT UNITES ONE FAMILY.

Leader: This we know, we did not weave the web of life,
ALL: WE ARE MERELY A STRAND IN IT.

Leader: This we know, whatever we do to the web,
ALL: WE DO TO OURSELVES.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,
**ALL: LET US GIVE THANKS THAT ALL THINGS
HOLD TOGETHER IN CHRIST.**

Blessing

Leader: May God's goodness be yours,
And well, and seven times well, may you spend your lives:
May you be an isle in the sea,
May you be a hill on the shore,
May you be a star in the darkness,
may you be a staff to the weak;
may the love Christ Jesus gave fill every heart for you;
may the love Christ Jesus gave fill you for every one.

ALL: AMEN.