



CELTIC EVENSONG AND HOLY COMMUNION

AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, OREGON

February 16, 2025

Holy Light

Welcome to Trinity's Celtic service. As we prepare for worship, we keep a holy silence. (Please check that cell phones are turned off.) There are two times when you are invited to light a votive candle for whatever is on your heart this evening, either before the service begins or at the later designated time.

***We dedicate our service to Chris Hope,
our beloved and compassionate Celtic Team Member***

July 30, 1947 – January 11, 2025

“Keep shining, beautiful one. The world needs your light.” ~ Author unknown

Prelude:

Welcome:

The Rev. Jan Holland

Opening Verses: *“How the Light Comes”*

I cannot tell you how the light comes.

What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining.

That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.

That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost,
what is forgotten, or in peril or in pain.

That it has a fondness for the body
for finding its way toward flesh,
for tracing the edges of form,
for shining forth through the eye, the hand, the heart.

I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does.

That it will.

That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you,
Though it may seem long ages in coming,
or arrive in a shape you did not foresee.

And so may we turn ourselves toward it.

May we lift our faces to let it find us.

May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.

May we open and open more and open still

to the blessed light that comes ~ Jan Richardson

Please stand.

Opening Hymn: *cantors will introduce, then please join*

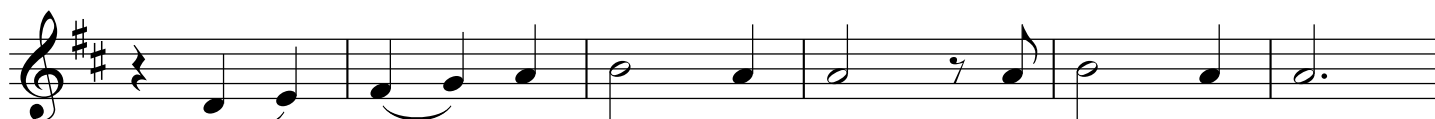
Living God, for whom no door is closed

New Zealand Prayer Book

Jodi French



Liv- ing_ God, for whom no_ door is closed, no heart_____ is locked,



draw___ us___ be - yond our doubts, be - yond our fears,



till___ we see___ your_ Christ,_____ and_____ touch___ his___



wounds where they hurt, where they_ hurt_____ in oth- ers._____

Prayer for the Evening:

Gentle me, Holy One,
into an unclenched moment,
a deep breath,
a letting go of heavy experiences,
of dead certainties,
that softened by the silence,
surrounded by the light,
and open to the mystery,
I may be found by wholeness,
upheld by the unfathomable,
entranced by the simple,
and filled with the joy that is you.
~Ted Loder

Please be seated.

A Gospel reading based on John 8:1

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; all who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Reflection:

The Rev. Daniel Green

Two minutes of silence are observed after the Reflection.

Candle Lighting: You may light a candle for whatever is on your heart this evening.

Light of the world

Jodi French

text adapted from evening collects, NZ Prayer Book

Light of the world, holy light,
heal us.

Light of the world, holy light,
transfigure us.

Light of the world, holy light,
dwell in us.

O Spirit of living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are,
all that we have been,
all that will be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Light of the world,
holy, healing light.

Please stand.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

We pray that God will use us and our prayerful intentions in support of one another and for the healing of the world.

Let us be at peace within ourselves.

All: Healing Light, enfold us

Let us accept that we are profoundly loved and need [never] not be afraid.

Let us be aware of the source of being

that is common to us all

and to all living creatures.

All: Accepting Light, may we know ourselves beloved

Let us be filled with the presence of the great compassion

towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

All: Encompassing Light, shine in our hearts

Realizing that we are all nourished

from the same source of life,

may we so live that others be not deprived

of air, food, water, shelter, or the chance to live.

All: Compassionate Light, burn clear in our hearts

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be

a cause of suffering to one another.

All: Forgiving Light, transform us

With humility let us pray for the establishment

of peace in our hearts and on earth.

All: Joyous Light, embolden us to hope

May God kindle in us

the fire of love

to bring us alive

and give warmth to the world.

~ Adapted From The NZPB p. 163

The Peace

Celebrant: Circle us, O Blessed Three in One,
with bonds of love that cannot be broken.
The peace of God be always with you.

All: And also with you.

You are welcome to move about, or stay in place, to greet each other with the "Peace".

Please be seated.

Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service. An alms basin is located on the table at the church entrance for your gifts in support of Celtic Worship.

Offertory: Think of how God loves you James MacMillan

Think of how God loves you
He calls you his own children
And that is what you are
And that is what you are

You have put on Christ
In Him you have been baptized
You are loved
You are loved
You are loved by God

Please stand.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: A reminder that **ALL** are welcome at this table.
The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

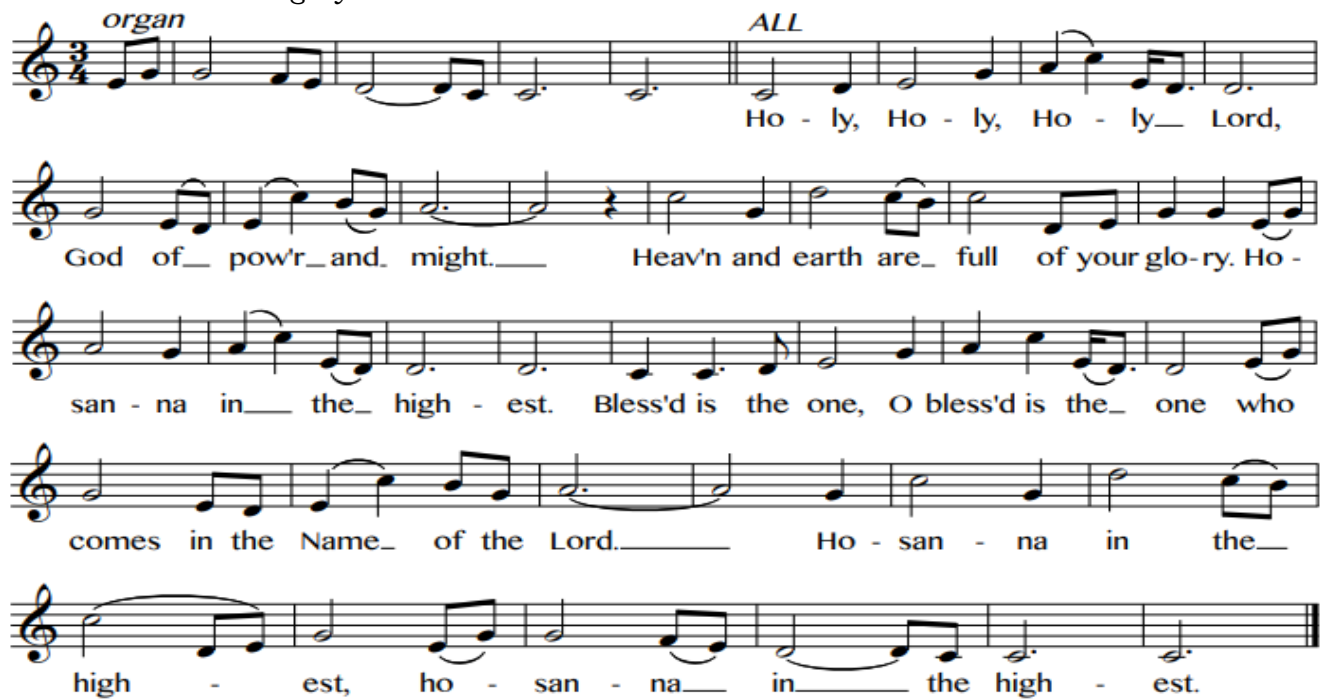
Celebrant: We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Creator of all life and light. Though our days vanish like mist, and the light of the earth fades away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human being is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with

the trumpets of heaven's messengers and the echo of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

Sanctus

Sung by all

James MacMillan



organ *ALL*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly_ Lord,
God of_ pow'r_ and_ might. Heav'n and earth are_ full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in_ the_ high - est. Bless'd is the one, O bless'd is the_ one who
comes in the Name_ of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the_
high - est, ho - san - na_ in_ the high - est.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God, whose wisdom from above has inspired women and men through the ages to fulfill on earth your purposes - to hear the cry of the poor, to act with mercy, and to live together in gentleness and peace. We bless you for the coming of Christ, who in life and in death embodied the law of love. By his rising again, he has given us abundant life now and forevermore, and by the gift of the Holy Spirit, he has given us courage and hope to face the forces of darkness and death that rage around and within us. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, **All: "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this to remember me.**

Celebrant: In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he shared it with his disciples, saying,

All: "Drink this all of you: This is my blood poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.

Celebrant: Come upon us with your Holy Spirit O God, and upon this bread and this wine, that we may be renewed once again, and that, as the whole of life is made new, we may find your peace within and around us. We ask this in the Name of God who creates us, who redeems us and who sustains us.

All: Amen.

~ Adapted from St Andrews Longmeadow

Celebrant: As Jesus taught us we now pray...

The Lord's Prayer:

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread *A period of silence is kept.*

Invitation to Eucharist:

This is the table not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those whose who love him
and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith,
and you who have little;
you have been here often
and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow,
and you who feel you have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.
All are welcome to this Sacrament of Grace at our table.

Please remain seated until it is your turn to come to the altar.

All are welcome at God's table! Please follow the row in front of you to come forward. You may choose to receive both the bread and the wine or the bread only. To receive bread, simply hold out your hands, or for Gluten free wafers cover one hand over the other. Wine will be offered by sipping from the Cup only. If you wish to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Communion Music

Psalm 27

Jodi French

The LORD is my light___ and my sal - va - tion; whom then shall I___
 fear? The LORD is the strength, the strength of my life; of
 whom then shall___ I___ be___ a - fraid. ___

Psalm 36

Jodi French

For with you is the well of life,___ and
 5 in your light___ we see___ light.

Psalm 67

Jodi French

May God, our own___ God, give us his bless - ing,
 show us his light,___ and come to us.

Psalm 92

Jodi French

Those who are plant-ed in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God; they shall be ev - er green, they shall be ev - er green.

Prayer after Communion *Please stand.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we give you thanks for meeting us in the Bread of Life and cup of salvation.

May we live his risen life to bring life to others.

May we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live into your abundance. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: May you go forth under the strength of heaven, under the light of the sun, under the radiance of moon.
 May you go forth with the splendor of fire, with the speed of lightning, with the swiftness of wind.
 May you go forth supported by the depth of sea, by stability of earth, by firmness of rock.
 May you be surrounded and encircled, above, below and about, this night, with the protection of the Holy One

All: Amen.

Send out your Light

Jodi French

Send out your light, send out your light, send out your
light and your truth, that they may lead me. Send out your
light; your light and truth will bring me to your
ho - ly hill, and to your dwell - ing.

The Sending:

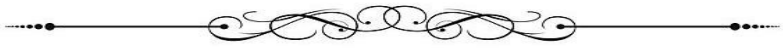
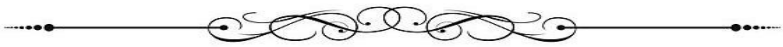
Tonight, now, in this moment
may you see the face of God in the face of another
and in your seeing, may you live.

All: Thanks be to God

Please take your seat for closing music.

Postlude

Thank you for being here. As the lights come up and you are ready, please leave quietly.

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We look forward to seeing you at the next Celtic service March 16, 2025.
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The Reverend Jan Holland, *Celebrant*
The Rev. Daniel Green, *Reflector*
Merrill Hearnberger, Ken Hearnberger, The Rev. Mary Piper, *Greeters*
Harry Piper, Ward Wilson, Ken Hearnberger, *Readers*
James Johnson, *Videographer*
Nancy Linton, Sarah Seybold, *Eucharistic Ministers*
Eileen Piker, Ward Wilson, *Celtic Altar Guild*
Ken Hearnberger, *Sender*
Jodi French, *Composer of Music and Pianist*
Jen Matsuura, Shelly Cox-Thornhill, *Cantors*
Kathleen Paige, *Harpist*
Carol Harvey, *Music Hospitality*

The Rev. Jan Holland, Carol Harvey, Nancy Linton, The Rev. Mary Piper,
Coordinating Team and Text selections

The Celtic Team

*The Rev. Jan Holland, Carol Harvey, Eileen Piker, Merrill Hearnberger,
The Rev. Mary Piper, Ken Hearnberger, Nancy Linton, James Johnson, Ward Wilson,
Phyllis Fernlund, Sarah Seybold, Jack Seybold
Phyllis Reynolds, Member Emerita
Emily Cox and Chris Hope in Memoriam*

This service of Celtic Evensong and Holy Communion, in the tradition of St. Columba, is adapted from a service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, which they have so graciously shared with us. The service is also based on prayers, blessings and liturgies from The Episcopal Church of the United States, The New Zealand Prayer Book, and the monastic communities of Iona and Northumbria, United Kingdom.

The ancient celebration of St. Brigid's Day on February 1 and the Christian Celebration of Candlemas (the presentation of Christ at the Temple) usher in a major shift with the Celtic season of Imbolic [imm'ulk], the Spring Quarter, which continues through March and April. Begun in dark and often cold days, it is a time of lengthening light, holy light, unopened buds, and warming ground. A threshold time of as yet hidden renewal and regeneration, in heart and mind as well as earth.

We dedicate our Celtic service this month to Chris Hope, most often our welcoming greeter, who met each person entering our doors, with her mischievous smile and warm brown eyes. Chris said she had been welcomed when she risked coming back to church via the Celtic service, after 30 years of naming herself “spiritual but not religious”. Chris said her question, ‘Where are you, God, and why can’t I find you?’ was answered at her first Celtic Evensong “through the prayer, the silence, and the community of others on the journey” and especially as she received the Eucharist where she sensed the presence of a loving God, “always there, most beautifully and patiently within me waiting for MY answer.”

Soon after, Chris became an encouraging team member marked by her lively and keen sense of humor. She was always animated to share her conversation with a visitor too often unnoticed—or with anyone she sensed the service touched.

A constant presence at Trinity, Chris always arrived early to our Celtic service to help with setting-up, then returned the morning after to put away the candles. She offered a class on Celtic spirituality and polished everything wooden in the sanctuary each year (because she loved wood and felt it held “the prayers of the ages”). But she also loved the coast, camping in the Redwoods, and all animals—above all, Quinn, her beloved golden retriever. For us, Chris often was the “face of Christ”, welcoming each of us, quirks and all, as beloved ones.

*****We would love to welcome anyone who is drawn to our Celtic Service and would like to assist our team in planning and preparing this special service. Please call or text Nancy Linton at 541-531-6907 to let us know. *****

Trinity Episcopal Church
The Reverend Daniel Green, Rector

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