

Celtic Worship

**Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020**

*Embracing the example of Jesus,
our welcome knows no boundaries and is extended to ALL people.
You are welcome here.*



As you prepare for worship, please remember that we will join in holy communion today. I invite you to set aside a piece of bread and a small amount of wine or grape juice (or even water) before the service to be consumed during communion. Also, you may want to light a candle as we light candles at the beginning of the service and extinguish them at the end of the service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend Janet James

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
We have not seen the risen Christ,
**but we see him in the lives
of those transformed by grace.**
We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,
**but we have seen him in the faces
of everyone whose love encourages us.**
We have not touched the wounds
from the cross,
**but we have been called to bring healing
to the scarred of the world.**

BODHRAN CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Arr. Stephen R. Dalrymple
Gabriel Lima, Piano

LIGHTING THE TRINITY CANDLES

The Reverend James

We will light a light in the name of the Maker.
God who created fire.
We will light a light in the name of Christ.
Jesus, whose love warms our hearts.
We will light a light in the name of the Spirit.
The Holy One, the fire of life.

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Lyn Hill

From mist and darkness
from restful waters
God gathers us.
From health and sickness
from plenty and poverty
God gathers us.
From highroads and byways
from fields and cities
God gathers us.
To a feast, a banquet,
to life eternal
God gathers us.

PRAYER

Elder Hill

We thank you
that Easter is not about
a people,
but all people,
that your love
and your Salvation
are for all who confess
with voices, hearts and lives
that the tomb is empty
because Jesus is risen,
that we might know
forgiveness,
that lives might be
reborn
and your name
glorified
now and for eternity.

(silence)

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

**Create a clean heart within me, O God,
so that it may become your chosen shelter
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.
I make the cross of Christ upon my breast,
over the tablet of my heart,
and I beseech the living God of the universe,
may the Light of lights come to my dark heart
so that I may live in the power of your love.**

(silence)

Pour down upon us from heaven
the rich blessing of your forgiveness.
Grant to us, O Savior of Glory,
the fear of God,
the love of God and God's affection,
and the will of God to do on earth at all times
as angels and saints do in heaven.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WATER IS Poured INTO THE BAPTISMAL FONT

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,
we were baptized into his death.
We were buried
so that as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of God,
we too might walk in newness of life.

MUSIC

“St Columba”

arr. Charles Callahan
Gabriel Lima, Piano

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 17 (NRSV)

Elder Jim Collins

¹⁷Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, ‘Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will set out and pursue David tonight. ²I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, ³and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.’ ⁴The advice pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵ Then Absalom said, ‘Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear too what he has to say.’ ⁶When Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom said to him, ‘This is what Ahithophel has said; shall we do as he advises? If not, you tell us.’ ⁷Then Hushai said to Absalom, ‘This time the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good.’ ⁸Hushai continued, ‘You know that your father and his men are warriors, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the troops. ⁹Even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits, or in some other place. And when some of our troops fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, “There has been a slaughter among the troops who follow Absalom.” ¹⁰Then even the valiant warrior, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear; for all Israel knows that your father is a warrior, and that those who are with him

are valiant warriors. ¹¹But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, like the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. ¹²So we shall come upon him in whatever place he may be found, and we shall light on him as the dew falls on the ground; and he will not survive, nor will any of those with him. ¹³If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there.’ ¹⁴Absalom and all the men of Israel said, ‘The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.’ For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring ruin on Absalom.

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15 Then Hushai said to the priests Zadok and Abiathar, “Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and so I have counselled. ¹⁶Therefore send quickly and tell David, “Do not lodge tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means cross over; otherwise the king and all the people who are with him will be swallowed up.”’ ¹⁷Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En-rogel; a servant-girl used to go and tell them, and they would go and tell King David; for they could not risk being seen entering the city. ¹⁸But a boy saw them and told Absalom; so both of them went away quickly and came to the house of a man at Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard; and they went down into it. ¹⁹The man’s wife took a covering, stretched it over the well’s mouth, and spread out grain on it; and nothing was known of it. ²⁰When Absalom’s servants came to the woman at the house, they said, ‘Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?’ The woman said to them, ‘They have crossed over the brook of water.’ And when they had searched and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

21 After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, ‘Go and cross the water quickly; for thus and so has Ahithophel counselled against you.’ ²²So David and all the people who were with him **set out and** crossed the Jordan; by daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan.

23 When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself; he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

24 Then David came to Mahanaim, while Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel. ²⁵Now Absalom had set Amasa over the army in the place of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra the Ishmaelite, who had married Abigail daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab’s mother. ²⁶The Israelites and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

27 When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim ²⁸brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans and lentils, ²⁹honey and curds, sheep, and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat; for they said, ‘The troops are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION*

INVITATION: *The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.*

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Reverend James

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. Our hearts are glad, our tongues rejoice, and we live now in hope – for you have made known to us the way of life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Let us pray for ourselves and others:

We pray for healing for those who are infected
in all the places where the virus has spread. *(prayers may be spoken or in silence)*
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who already have lost loved ones to the illness
and those who will yet suffer such loss.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** *(prayers may be spoken or in silence)*

We pray for doctors, nurses and aides providing medical care,
for insight in their caring, and for their health and well-being.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** *(prayers may be spoken or in silence)*

We pray for wisdom for the medical and scientific experts
who are desperately seeking ways to control the spread of the virus.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** *(prayers may be spoken or in silence)*

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We pray for public officials, especially President Trump, Governor Northam, and the Henrico Board of Supervisors, who must make the hard decisions about the quarantining of those who may have been exposed to the virus; and we pray for all those for whom those decisions feel like unjust imprisonment. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray for You, O God, to keep us alert to the threats posed by such a worldwide crisis, remembering the millions of God's children who live in places where the availability of medical care is meager or nonexistent. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society... Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray for those elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them... Lord, in your mercy. People: **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ and be able to forgive those who have hurt them... Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.** (*prayers may be spoken or in silence*)

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

Elder Collins

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world,
we extinguish the lights here that represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.

**But we will carry the light in our hearts,
and we pray that as we go about our work in the world,
we will shine with the love of God. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Reverend James

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah with Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Handel/Purifoy
Gabriel Lima, Piano

OFFERING

It is appropriate to respond to God with our time, talents and money. Financial offerings can be made by mail to P.O. Box 29635, Henrico, VA 23242 or through PayPal on The Kirk's website www.thegaytonkirk.org.

NOTES

*Reading and Interpreting Scripture

Midrash is a method of interpreting Scripture that fills in the gaps, by questioning and imagining a multitude of possible interpretations. Midrash allows the text and the Spirit of God to open up the reader to transformation, instead of resisting change by latching onto one final, closed, and certain interpretation. The traditional forms of midrash demand both a prayerful approach and scholarly familiarity with the Bible and commentaries which have formed the tradition over the centuries. However, it is possible for someone who is not a biblical scholar or theologian to get a sense of the practice of midrash.

-“Midrash” - Richard Rohr

Communion

The communion prayer is an adaptation of a Communion Liturgy of the Iona Community. <https://iona.org.uk/> The prayers of the people are adapted from the PCUSA website and *Celtic Evensong and Healing Prayer service bulletin, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Exton PA*

prayers by Thom M. Shuman and John Birch

MUSIC PERMISSIONS

“St. Columba” arr. Charles Callahan

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” arr. Stephen R. Dalrymple Used by Permission. CCLI License # 4057842

“Hallelujah with Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” Handel/ Purifoy. Used by permission CCLI License #



What is Celtic Christian Worship?

Celtic Worship calls upon all of creation to praise God. The Celtic tradition is a way of seeing the world.

Celtic Christianity developed in Ireland after St. Patrick introduced Christianity there in 432. The Celts, a nature-loving people, preferred the oral tradition to the written and they delighted in stories that engaged their imaginations and their senses. They embraced Christianity with its parables, stories, poetry, songs, visual symbols and community.

The Celts considered nature and creation sacred and recognized as equal the gifts of women and men, whether lay or clerical.

The Celtic service is contemplative, without a sermon. Worshipers commune with God through prayers, poetry, litanies, scripture readings, music and silence.

Notice the inclusion of images from nature in the prayers, the musical rhythm of the prelude and postludes, the respect of everyone's thoughts.

- from Celtic Evensong and Healing Prayer service bulletin, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Exton PA



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