

A Celtic Style Communion Service for Autumn

Call to Worship

Leader: Among the poor,
among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: In the private house,
in the public feast,
in the wedding feast,
in the judgement hall

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: With a gentle touch,
with an angry word,
with a clear conscience,
with burning love

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: That the kingdom might come,
that the world might believe,
that the powerful might stumble,
that the hidden might be seen

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Leader: Within us, without us,
behind us, before us,
in this place, in every place,
for this time, for all time

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray.

In the heights:

sun and moon, armies of angels and shining stars

All: Sing Hallelujah! Praise God

Leader: In the depths:

earth and oceans, birds and dragons, trees full of fruit

All: Sing Hallelujah! Praise God

Leader: In the heights:

hail and lightning, snow and winds and mists

All: Sing Hallelujah! Praise God

Leader: In the depths:

men and women, children, elders and kings

All: Sing Hallelujah! Praise God

Leader: In all the universe:

every plant and every creature,

sing our Maker's glory praise God's name

All: Sing Hallelujah! Praise God

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Creator God we recognize

that we are not as fruitful as we could be

Forgive us when we fail

to tend the fruits of the Spirit

and water them with prayer

All: Forgive us Lord

Leader: Forgive us when we quench the warmth of love

that enables such fruit to ripen

All: Forgive us Lord

Leader: Forgive us for those times

when fear causes us to resist your pruning

All: Forgive us Lord

Leader: Forgive us when, set in our ways
we block your growth in our lives

All: Forgive us Lord

Leader: Come Lord, fertilize our hearts
and bring to fruit in us
your joy and your kindness

All: Amen

The Word of God

Collect

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

First reading

Reader: In the beginning was the Word

**All: and the Word was with God
and the Word was God**

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

12 Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads

to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6.12-18

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us;

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

All Glory to you O Lord

39 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

41 Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?' ⁴²And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. ⁴⁴Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵But if that slave says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be

required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Luke 12.39-48

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you O Lord

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: We pray for our world

Pause

for those who suffer because of climate change
for those who are afraid for tomorrow
for those who seek to renew the seas and the earth
Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for places of conflict

Pause

for those whose life is lived against a background of war
for those who seek to bring peace and justice for all
Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for those who are homeless

Pause

for those living in places strange to them
for those in new places of work or education.
for those living away from those they love
for those who welcome stranger and offer hospitality
Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for the church

Pause

for the organisation and the buildings

for the projects and the people

for ourselves

Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: God of grace and mercy

hear our prayers

both those spoken and those held in our hearts

we ask them in Jesus name

and in the power of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

The Peace

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.

And also with you.

Preparation of the table

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 earth has given

and human hands have made.

May they become for us

the food and drink of eternal life.

Bless the King of all the earth!

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of power and might.

The Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Indeed it is right to give you thanks and praise, O God:
out of chaos and darkness
you have created light and an abundance of life.

From the depths of winter, the new life of spring
and the warmth of summer,
you have brought forth a harvest of bounty.
Your world is indeed good.

Through your Son, who lived and toiled,
wept and laughed among us,
you were one with us in human flesh

You sent your Spirit to bring new life
causing living water to spring from dry, thirsty places
and putting a new song on our lips.

So, together with all your saints and angels,
the living and the departed,
we sing to you a hymn of unending praise.

**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.**

Christ is the first fruit of your creation,
with you before time,
bringing all to completion through his death on a cross.

By your power you raised him:
setting us free to be your body,
serving you in the world.

On the night before he died, knowing
that his time had come,
while at supper with his disciples,
Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:
'Take, eat. This is my Body, broken for you.'

After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks,
and gave it to them, saying: 'Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

We do now what Christ taught us:
we remember his death and resurrection
and look forward to that day
when all will be complete in him.

We offer ourselves and all that we are:
our gifts and talents, our strengths and weaknesses,
to the glory and honour of your name.

Christ is the bread of life:

**when we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit to settle upon this bread and wine
and bless them with the fullness of Jesus.

**And let that same Spirit rest on us, too,
converting us from the patterns of this world,
until we become more like Jesus,
whose food we now share. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The communion

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

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**

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.

The bread and wine are shared among us

Post communion prayer

**God, Maker and Lover of us all,
help us to live and breathe
with the life of your Spirit,
that we may work with you
towards the unity of your whole creation,
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Blessing and dismissal

Leader: May the everlasting God shield you,
east and west wherever you go.
And the blessing of God be upon you,

All: the blessing of the God of life.

Leader: The blessing of Christ be upon you,

All: the blessing of the Christ of love.

Leader: The blessing of the Spirit be upon you,

All: We go into God's world.

Leader: The blessing of the Trinity be upon you,
now and evermore.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us go into the world rejoicing.
It is Christ who goes before us.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Material is drawn from "A wee worship book, fourth incarnation" (1999), Acorns and Archangels (2009) and Iona Abbey Worship Book, © Wild Goose Publications. Celtic Daily Prayer, books 1 & 2 © 2015 The Northumbria Community Trust.