

# **Services of Daily Prayer for Christmas, Epiphany and Ordinary Time**

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**Morning Prayer for the New Year**  
**Material Taken from Hay and Stardust with permission**

**Gathering**

Let us give thanks  
at the start of this new year  
for the many ways  
in which our lives are supported  
day by day.

For familiar shops and faces on the street,  
for warm homes and full cupboards,  
for friends and entertainment,  
for new challenges and past achievements,  
for good government and the absence of famine, plague or war,

**We thank you Lord  
and praise your Holy Name.**

Let us give thanks especially for those we love,  
whose loyalty we depend upon,  
whose faults and frailties we forgive,  
whose acceptance of our faults and frailties we wonder at,  
whose daily presence we so easily take for granted.

For dearest and nearest,  
wherever they are,  
whoever they are,  
however they are,

**we thank you Lord  
and praise your Holy Name**

**Bible Reading**

**Reflection**

**Intercessions**

*at the end of the intercessions we pray together*

**Step softly into your weeping world,  
incarnate God;  
embrace it in your love.  
Bring light into broken lives,  
warmth into frozen hearts,  
hope to those at war.  
May your peace pervade every place.  
Help us to approach this new year  
filled with the joy of your companionship,  
as we step out in faith with you,  
ready to face the future,  
whatever it may hold.**

**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.**

**A Blessing**

Eternal God,  
Creator, Son and Spirit,  
at the start of this new year,  
with your help,  
we would let go of the past.  
We would lay down our failures, guilt and shame,  
and lift up our eyes,  
and look to the future.  
Let the grace of your presence  
strengthen our resolve,  
enlighten our minds,  
clarify our wills,  
and inflame our hearts  
with love for you  
and for all people.  
So may we live dedicated lives  
in peace, and with courage, faith and cheerfulness,  
until the year's end.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen  
*John Harvey*

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Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK.

## Common Worship Morning Prayer for the Christmas Season

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
You laid the foundation of the earth  
**and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,  
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,  
may the light of your love be born in us  
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*This opening prayer may be said*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

The Word of God

### **Psalm**

*Each psalm may end with*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **Canticle**

*Refrain:*

**To us a child is born,  
to us a son is given.**

- 1 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
upon them the light has dawned.
- 2 You have increased their joy and given them great gladness;  
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.

- 3 For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them;  
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
- 4 For to us a child is born and to us a son is given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.
- 5 And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;  
the Mighty God;  
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
- 6 Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,
- 7 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.
- 8 From this time forth and for evermore;  
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Isaiah 9.2,3b,4a,6,7*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**To us a child is born,  
to us a son is given.**

### **Bible Reading**

The Word of life which was from the beginning  
**we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away  
and the true light is already shining;  
**the Word of life which was from the beginning.**

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,  
and touched with our hands,  
**we proclaim to you.**

For our fellowship is with the Father,  
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The Word of life which was from the beginning  
we proclaim to you.**

*from 1 John 1*

### **Gospel Canticle**

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,*

*Refrain:*

**To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,

- from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
  - 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
  - 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
  - 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
  - 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
  - 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
  - 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.  
To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,  
Glory to God in the highest.**

### **Prayers**

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

**(or)**

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Silence may be kept.*

### ***The Collect of the day or the following is said***

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven ...**

**The Conclusion**

May God, who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Morning Prayer for the Christmas Season  
with a Meditation on the Incarnation**

Jesus of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Calvary

**We celebrate your birth**

**Come and be born in us**

Jesus of the manger and the inn

Jesus of the workshop and the temple

Jesus of the lakeside and the city

Jesus of the fireside and the roadside

**We celebrate your life**

**Come and be born in us**

Jesus of Mary and Joseph

Jesus of shepherds and angels

Jesus of children and animals

Jesus of fishermen and priests

Jesus of women and men

Jesus of tax collectors and prostitutes

Jesus of all who will receive you

**We celebrate your resurrection**

**Come and be born in us**

Adapted from a prayer by Doug Gay from [Alternative Worship](http://www.freshworship.org/). Posted on the **Grace** website worship archive. <http://www.freshworship.org/>

**Bible Reading**

**Meditation on the Incarnation**

Emmanuel.

God with us.

Through torn sky shepherds spy heaven singing

And through this wound, God falls into hay screaming

Only astrologers scan outer depths to follow this bright trajectory

Burning up in my atmospheres.

Cold vacuums resisting God's re-entry.

Christ.

In very nature God.

Stripped of all vestures of Deity

No glory, no majesty, no power, no knowledge.

Abandoned by heaven.

The almighty, become so small as to be born human.  
Receives gifts  
The first reminders  
Suggestions of an identity.

The saviour of the world.  
Born in a 2-bit village, in a cave under the family home.  
Ostracised by his ancestors.  
His mother shamed.  
Ignored by the religious.  
Recognised only by farm-hands and foreign astrologers.

We welcomed God in the same way we dispatched him.  
Deserted by friends  
Rejected by the godly  
Abandoned by God  
Helpless  
Exposed to the elements  
And only 2 people to recognise him: a thief and an occupying soldier  
The underclass. The foreigner.

In birth Christ was offered 3 gifts.  
Gold for a king  
Frankincense for a God  
And Myrrh for a mortal.

In birth Christ was offered 3 gifts  
But in death all gifts were refused.  
In death Christ becomes gift.

Where are we this Christmas?  
Are we Magi, searching in strange places for signs of God?  
Are we offering gifts, unaware of their deeper meanings?  
Are we the establishment, trying to shut out what we fear.

We are all of these.  
But we are called to become the faithful wanderer.  
To become the body of Christ.  
Freely accepting gifts.  
Living and dying to become gift for others.  
from Jonny Baker's Worship Tricks website.

## Prayers

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

### **Blessing**

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,  
bring joy to our hearts this day and always.

**Amen**

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for u,  
fill our lives with love and peace.

**Amen**

May Emmanuel, God with us,  
be with us in all our doings and all our celebrations,  
until he brings us into his eternal kingdom.

**Amen**

And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Rev. Thomas Weitzel, on Liturgy by TLW.

Material taken from Re: Worship Blog

## Morning Prayer for Epiphany from the Iona Community

Material taken from Enter with Joy with permission

Leader: In a refugee child playing under a star ...

**In an anonymous young man requesting baptism ...**

Leader: In a wandering preacher refreshed by water from a woman's hand ...

**God was waiting to be recognised and known,  
to transform seeing and change the world.**

Leader: In the routine smallness of everyday life ...

In the jagged discomfort of struggle and transition ...

In the timeless grace of hospitality, and the gifts of bread and wine ...

**God is waiting to be recognised and known,  
to transform our seeing and change our world.**

Leader: God of proclamation and epiphany,

**Through the words of prophets and angels  
you reveal the possibilities  
of a different way for the world ...**

Leader: God of encounter and epiphany,

**Through the life and actions of Jesus  
you reveal the passionate love  
at the heart of your Kingdom ...**

Leader: God of epiphany and challenge,  
as we hear you now

**Open our knowing and understanding  
to your patterns and their possibilities.**

Leader: God of epiphany and change,  
as we encounter you now

**Open our patterns and possibilities  
to the transforming power of your love  
and send us on by a different way.**

**Bible Reading**

**Reflection**

**Intercessions**

**Closing responses**

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:  
**Give us the perseverance and courage  
to seek out and approach you,  
wherever you are to be found.**

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:  
**Grant us the vision and understanding  
to see and recognise you,  
whenever we might meet you.**

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:  
**Gift us the grace and generosity  
to respond freely and fully,  
whatever you might ask of us.  
So may our loving and living  
become, in their turn,  
places of epiphany  
where you can be recognised  
and known,  
and the transforming life  
of your Kingdom  
unleashed.**

Pat Bennett

Wild Goose Publications, 4th Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK, the publishing division of the Iona Community. Scottish Charity No. SC003794. Limited Company Reg. No. SC096243 [www.ionabooks.com](http://www.ionabooks.com) © 2014 Pat Bennett

## Parish Prayers inspired by Julian of Norwich

### **Hazelnut theology:**

God also showed me a little thing, about the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand; and it was round as a ball. I looked at it, trying to understand it, and thought 'What might this be?' And I was answered like this: 'It is everything that has been made'. I was amazed that it could last, for I thought it might have collapsed into nothing, it was so little. And a voice spoke inside my thoughts: 'It lasts, and ever shall last because God loves it'. And so everything exists because of the love of God. So in this little thing I saw three lessons. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, and the third is that it is God who keeps it going.

### **God made it:**

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You know everything I do.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous – how well I know it.

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered;

I can't even count them, they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

*(Psalm 139)*

### **God loves us: Bible Reading**

**Reflection:** Please reflect quietly on the wonder of our God who loves us more than we can imagine, and totally unconditionally

### **God keeps it going:**

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honour me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. *(Psalm 23)*

**Reflection:** Please reflect quietly on the wonder of our God who provides all of our deepest needs, and knows what we need before we ask

**Prayers** for the World, the Parish and ourselves

### **Closing Prayers:**

Help me to remember the peace of Your promise,

**When all seems dark;  
Help me to remember the purity of Your light,  
When all seems hopeless;  
Help me to remember the comfort of Your words,  
When all seems discord;  
Help me to remember the harmony of Your creation.  
May my conversations be significant,  
May my meetings be blessed,  
May my path cross the paths of others who love You.  
May my path cross the path of others who don't know You.  
May my touch by Your touch of infinite gentleness,  
May my words be Your words of wisdom,  
May my eyes see with your compassion. Amen**

All will be well, and all manner of things will be well.

*(Julian of Norwich)*

## Morning Prayer – Celtic Style

O God, you summon the day to dawn,  
You teach the morning to waken the earth,

**Great is your name. Great is your love.**

For you the valleys shall sing for joy,  
**great is your name. Great is your love.**

The trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**Great is your name. Great is your love.**

For you the kings of the earth shall bow,  
The poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

**Great is your name. Great is your love.**

Your love and mercy shall last forever,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

**Great is your name. Great is your love.**

### ***Thanksgiving:***

If you come in certainty or confusion, in anger or in anguish,

**This time is for us.**

If you come in silent suffering or hidden sorrow, in pain or promise,

**This time is for us.**

If you come for your own or another's need, for a private wound or the wound of the world,

**This time is for us.**

If you come and do not know why, to be here is enough.

**This time is for all**

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth;

Come now, Christ of the yearning tears;

Come now, Christ of the transforming touch.

**This time is for you.**

### ***Reading:***

**(A) Creator God, we praise you for bright crisp mornings,  
For leaves crackling underfoot, and wisps of cloud in a pale sky.**

**(B) We praise you for the night time rain,  
For the wind buffeting the city and street lamps reflected in wet pavements**

**(A) We praise you for the season's labours,  
For the smell of new-turned earth, and smoking bonfires.**

**(B) We praise you for the season's gifts,  
For fruitfulness beyond measure, and time to reflect and remember**

**(A&B) Creator God, we praise you.**

### ***Prayers***

***Song:***

You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field  
Will clap will clap their hands.  
And the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
And you'll go out with joy.

***Ending:***

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you  
Wherever he may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness,  
Protect you from the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

***Blessing:***

The love of the faithful creator  
The peace of the wounded Healer  
The joy of the challenging Spirit  
The hope of the Three in One  
Surround and encourage you,  
Today, tonight and forever.

Iona Community Morning Prayer © 1999 Wild Goose Resource Group

## Morning Prayer from the Northumbria Community

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

### ***Opening sentences:***

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I ask:  
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to seek Him in His temple.

Who is it that you seek?

**We seek the Lord our God.**

Do you seek Him with all your heart?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your soul?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your mind?

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Do you seek Him with all your strength?

**Amen. Christ have mercy.**

### ***Declaration of faith:***

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ his Son.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the three in One.

### ***Canticle:***

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ as a shield over-shadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;

In the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,

Lowly and meek, yet all powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

### **Scripture Readings**

### **Prayers**

***The Lord's Prayer:***

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
Now and forever. Amen**

***Blessing***

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you  
Wherever he may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness,  
Protect you from the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

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

Taken from [Morning/Midday/Evening] Prayer from Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins.'

## Franciscan Prayer

We adore you,  
**Most holy Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**Here and in all your churches throughout the world,**  
**We bless you because by your holy cross**  
**You have redeemed the world.**

Come Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful people  
**And kindle in us the fire of your love.**  
Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**And blessed be His kingdom now and forever.**

### ***Canticle:***

You are the holy Lord God; who does wonderful things.  
You are strong; you are great; you are the Most High.  
You are the almighty King.  
You, holy Father, King of heaven and earth.  
**You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;**  
**You are the good, all good, the highest good,**  
**Lord God living and true.**

You are love, you are charity, you are wisdom, you are humility, you are patience, you are beauty, you are meekness, you are security, you are rest.  
**You are gladness and joy, you are our hope, you are justice,**  
**You are moderation, you are all our riches to sufficiency.**

You are beauty, you are meekness, you are the protector,  
You are our custodian and defender.  
**You are strength,**  
**You are refreshment,**  
**You are our hope,**  
**You are our faith,**  
**You are our charity.**

You are all our sweetness, you are our eternal life:  
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Saviour.

### ***Reading***

### ***Prayers:***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who when the world was growing cold to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of your love, raised up blessed Francis, bearing in his body the marks of your passion:

Mercifully grant to us, your people, true penitence and grace to bear the cross of love of you; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen

***Time of open prayer***

***Blessing:***

May God kindle in us the fire of love. **Amen**

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you His peace.

My sisters and brothers, the Lord bless you. Amen

Taken from the prayers of St Francis

## Morning Prayer in the Moravian Tradition

Christ invites us to come to worship:

**to rest from the things that are troubling us;**

to pray for the needs of those close to us as well as for the needs of the world

**to realise what we can offer to others**

and so to return into the world to serve.

**Let us worship God who reigns over all the earth.**

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into the presence with thanksgiving;

**Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God

**And a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

**The heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land,

**Which his hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down,

**Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep in His hand.**

O that today you would listen to His voice!

*(Psalm 95:1-7)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Lord Jesus, we come before you in humble confession. Help us conform our lives to you as the model for holy and righteous living.

**Forgive us for living for ourselves.**

**Forgive us for not being true to you.**

**Forgive us for not being kind to others.**

**Forgive us for not sharing your good news with the nations.**

God says: *'I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,*

*And I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak* (Ezekiel 34:16)

**Holy Spirit, empower us to accept the grace that our Lord and Saviour,**

**Jesus Christ, offers us today.**

Hear the words of our Lord: *'Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more'.*

***Bible Reading***

***Time of open prayer***

As you taught your disciples to pray, so we pray together:

**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**

Lord awaken us

**To your presence with us in each moment.**

Lord awaken us

**To the suffering of others.**

Lord awaken us

**To the grace that you have already extended to us.**

Lord awaken us.

**To see how we can share grace with those around us.**

**Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,**

**Since as members of one body we were called to peace.**

**Whatever we do in word or deed,**

**May we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,**

**Giving thanks through him to God the Father. Amen**

Christ, and him crucified

**Remain our confession of faith. Amen**

*Prayer* from *Moravian Daily* Texts © The *Moravian* Church in America, 1995

## Common Worship Morning Prayer

O Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

### ***Song of God's Righteousness:***

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

**Who redeems your life from the pit,**

**And crowns you with faithful love and compassion;**

Who satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.**

He made his ways known to Moses and his words to the children of Israel.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom has dominion over all.**

Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word.

**Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.**

Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion;

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*(Psalm 103: 1-7, 19-22)*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen**

The night has passed and the day lies open before us: let us pray with one heart and mind:

### ***Silence***

**As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen**

### ***Psalm***

#### ***Canticle:***

**Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace.**

Come let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob;

**That God may teach us his ways, and that we may walk in his paths.**

For the law shall go out from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem

**God shall judge between the nations, and shall mediate for many peoples.**

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks.

**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,**

**Neither shall they learn war any more.**

O people of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen** *(Isaiah 2: 3-5)*

**Spirit of God, teach us your ways, that we may walk in the paths of peace.**

***Reading***

***Response:***

Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.

**Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.**

Lead me in the paths of your commandments

**That I may see the wonders of your law.**

Glory to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law.**

***Gospel Canticle:***

**In your tender compassion, O God,**

**The dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,**

**Who has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,**

**Born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets, God promised of old**

**To save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,**

**To show mercy to his ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:**

**To set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear,**

**Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,**

**For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God,**

**The dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,**

**And to guide our feet into the way of peace.** *(Luke 1: 68-79)*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

**In your tender compassion, O God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

***Prayers***

***Collect:***

Eternal God and Father,  
You create and redeem us by the power of your love:  
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
That we may give ourselves in love and service to one another, and to you;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***The Lord's Prayer***

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, And keep us in eternal life. **Amen**  
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Common Worship Morning Prayer © The Archbishop's Council 2002 and 2006

**Wild Goose Worship – A Wee Worship Book**  
**Morning Liturgy A**

**Call to worship**

In the beginning  
before time, before people,  
before the world began

**God was**

Here and now  
among us, beside us  
enlisting the people of earth  
for the purposes of heaven

**God is**

In the future  
when we have turned to dust  
and all we know has found its fulfilment

**God will be**

Not denying the world but delighting in it  
not condemning the world, but redeeming it  
through Jesus Christ  
by the power of the Holy Spirit

**God was**

**God is**

**God will be**

**Prayer**

Let us pray

In you, gracious God  
the widowed find a carer  
the orphaned find a parent  
the fearful find a friend.

In you,  
the wounded find a healer  
the penitent find a pardoner  
the burdened find a counsellor.

In you,  
the miserly find a beggar,  
the despondent find a laughter-maker  
the legalists find a rule breaker.

In you, Jesus Christ  
we meet our Maker  
and our match.

And if some need to say 'help me'  
and if some need to say 'save me'  
and if some need to say 'hold me'  
and if some need to say 'forgive me'  
then let these be said now  
in confidence  
by us.

*silence*

O Christ  
in whose heart is both welcome and warning  
say to us,  
do to us  
reveal within us  
the things that will make us whole.

And we will wait;  
and we will praise you,  
Amen

### **Bible Reading**

Hear the Word of God

**Our ears are open**

A reading from...

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Reflection**

### **Prayers**

## **Closing Response**

For all that God can do within us  
for all that God can do without us

**Thanks be to God**

For all in whom Christ lived before us  
For all in whom Christ lives beside us

**Thanks be to God**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,  
for where the Spirit wants to send us

**Thanks be to God**

Listen

Christ has promised to be with us  
in the world as in our worship

**Amen**

**We go to serve him.**

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## An Evening Liturgy from the Iona Community

### ***Opening Responses:***

Come, Lord Jesus,  
You too were tired when day was done;  
You met your friends at evening time.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come Lord Jesus,  
You too enjoyed when nights drew on;  
You told your tales at close of day.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come Lord Jesus,  
You kindled faith when lamps were low;  
You opened scriptures, broke the bread,  
And shed your light as darkness fell.

**Come, Lord Jesus, meet us here.**

**A time of reflection:** Looking at just some of the images of our broken world placed before the altar, how might we bring God's peace into being in our community / world?

### ***Prayer:***

Let us pray.  
You broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us.

For in Jesus, the smiling Jesus  
the story-telling Jesus,  
the controversial Jesus  
the annoying Jesus  
the loving and forgiving Jesus

Your hands touched all, and touched us  
Showing how, in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile,  
nor male nor female:

**All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you.**

You opened our eyes to see how the hands of the rich were empty  
And the hearts of the poor were full.

You dared to take the widow's mite  
the child's loaves  
the babe at the breast,  
and in these simple things, to point out the path to your Kingdom.

You said 'Follow me!'

For on our own we could never discover that in Christ there is  
neither Jew nor Gentile,  
neither male nor female.

**All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you.**

You gave us hands to hold:  
Black hands and white hands, African hands and Asian hands,  
The clasping hands of lovers,  
And the reluctant hands of those who don't believe they are worth holding.  
And when we wanted to shake our fist, you still wanted to hold our hand,  
Because in Christ there is  
neither Jew nor Gentile,  
neither male nor female.

Here in the company of the neighbour whom we know  
And the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn,  
We ask to love as Jesus loved.  
Make this the place and the time, good Lord,  
When heaven and earth merge into one,  
And we, in word and flesh, can grasp that in Christ there is  
neither Jew nor Gentile  
neither male nor female.

**All are one in Jesus Christ, and for this we praise you. Amen**

### ***Reading***

***Prayers:*** (after each category, anyone may offer a name of those brought to mind. Each can be followed by a response)

Let us say a prayer for those who need to be remembered tonight:

Those who have made the news headlines today because of what they have done or said:

Those who have been brought to our attention through a meeting or conversation:

Those who are in hospital, in care, or in a place which is strange to them:

Those in whose family, marriage or close relationship, there is stress or a break-up:

Those who are waiting for a birth or a death, or news which will affect their lives:

Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in, and meet the God who believes in them:

Those whose pain or potential we should not forget to share with God tonight:

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer, and will be faithful to your promise to answer us.

When our eyes open again, may they do so, not to end our devotions,  
But to expect your Kingdom, for Jesus' sake. **Amen**

***Song***

***Blessing:***

May God bless us in our sleep with rest,  
In our dreams with vision,  
In our waking with a calm mind,  
In our soul with the friendship of the Holy Spirit,  
This night and every night, and the  
Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Service from A Wee Worship Book, Copyright © 1999 Wild Goose Resource Group.**

## Evening Prayer from A Wee Worship Book – Celtic Style

*Candle 1:* I will light a light in the name of the Maker, who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for me.

*Candle 2:* I will light a light in the name of the Son who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.

*Candle 3:* I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who encompasses the world and blessed my soul with yearning.

**We will light three lights for the Trinity of love: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us; the beginning, the end, the everlasting one. Amen**

*Song*

*Reading*

*Prayers*

*Song*

***Blessing:***

On our heads and our houses

**The blessing of God.**

In our coming and going

**The peace of God.**

In our life believing

**The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning

**The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen**

Celtic Resource Book © Wild Goose Resource Book 2009

## Compline from Common Worship

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

*The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.  
Alleluia.**

*The following or other suitable hymn may be sung.*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

**The Psalm**

*At the end of the psalm the following is said or sung*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **Bible Reading**

*The following responsory may be said*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**  
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**  
Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

### **Gospel Canticle**

*The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.*

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,  
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ◆  
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ◆  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ◆  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,  
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

## The Collect

*Silence may be kept.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be said.*

## The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us  
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

**Amen.**

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