



CELTIC IONA STYLE EVENING PRAYER
ORDINARY TIME
The Celtic Journey - Seasons of Change

**Welcome to Celtic Iona style Evening Prayer,
with St George the Martyr Wash Common and
St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

This evening prayer service is written in the style and spiritual purview of the Celtic tradition. A tradition steeped in imagination, symbolism and of God's glory in all of creation.

We invite you to participate with us in this service , the prayers are very simple to follow, and there will be a short reflection too.

Front Cover Image. Samhain Celtic festival of darkness



Newbury, St George & St John

The Greeting

The officiant says:

Come to us this night, O God,

Come to us with light.

Speak to us this night, O God,

Speak to us your truth.

Dwell with us this night, O God,

Dwell with us in love.

The sign of light— a candle is lit

Let the darkness of night surround us,
let light and warmth gather us
and let God's people say 'Amen'.

Amen.

Let the tools be stored away,
let the work be over and done
and let God's the people say 'Amen.'

Amen.

Let the winds blow wild around us,
But let hearts be glad and minds be calm
And let God's people say 'Amen'.

Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving

Thanks be to you O Christ,

For the many gifts you have bestowed on us,

Each day and night, each sea and land,

Each weather fair, each calm, each wild.

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

**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.**

O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,
**Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear,
May be between ourselves and this world. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Prayer of Penitence

**Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me
I confess to you,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

May the God of all mercy,
bring us back to himself
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word of God

First reading **Psalm 119 1-11**

1 Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

2 **Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,**

3 who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

4 **You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

5 O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

6 **Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

8 **I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

10 **With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.**

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

**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.

Jude 1-4. 17-end

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,

To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ.

Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever.

Amen.

Short Reflection

Silence is kept.

Prayers of Intercession

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Collect

Almighty God,
who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God
who takes the smallest moment of hope,
and grows it forth like a tree
with spreading branches for the sheltering of new life.

We believe in Jesus Christ
who walks tall among us,
seen in our faces, felt in our hearts,
bedded deep in the longing of our souls
for all that is true, just and full of hope.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
who waits on our moments of openness,
and springs into the unknowns
with joy and delight,
that we may be called on
beyond where we thought we could go,
where every step is walked on holy ground.

Amen.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Closing responses

Stay with us Lord, it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your everlasting glory.

Amen.

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Newbury, St George & St John