

Celtic Spirituality II



Old Graveyard, Kenmare, Ireland

The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty
February 23, 2022

Opening Prayer



Inishbofin, West Quarter

I arise today
embraced in the arms
of God the Father,
empowered by the strength
of God the Spirit,
immersed in the love
of God the Son.
I arise today
in the company
of the Trinity,
Father, Spirit and Son.
I arise today.

-- Source unknown

Review: Celtic Spirituality

- God's saturating presence in the world
- Unity and revelation of creation
- Holiness of daily life
- Prayer as daily rhythm
- Hold all things together



Review: Celtic Christianity

- Rooted in rural, kinship, oral culture
- 4th-8th C, outside of Roman influence
- Founded on monastic life
- Integration of pre-Christian spiritual traditions and practices

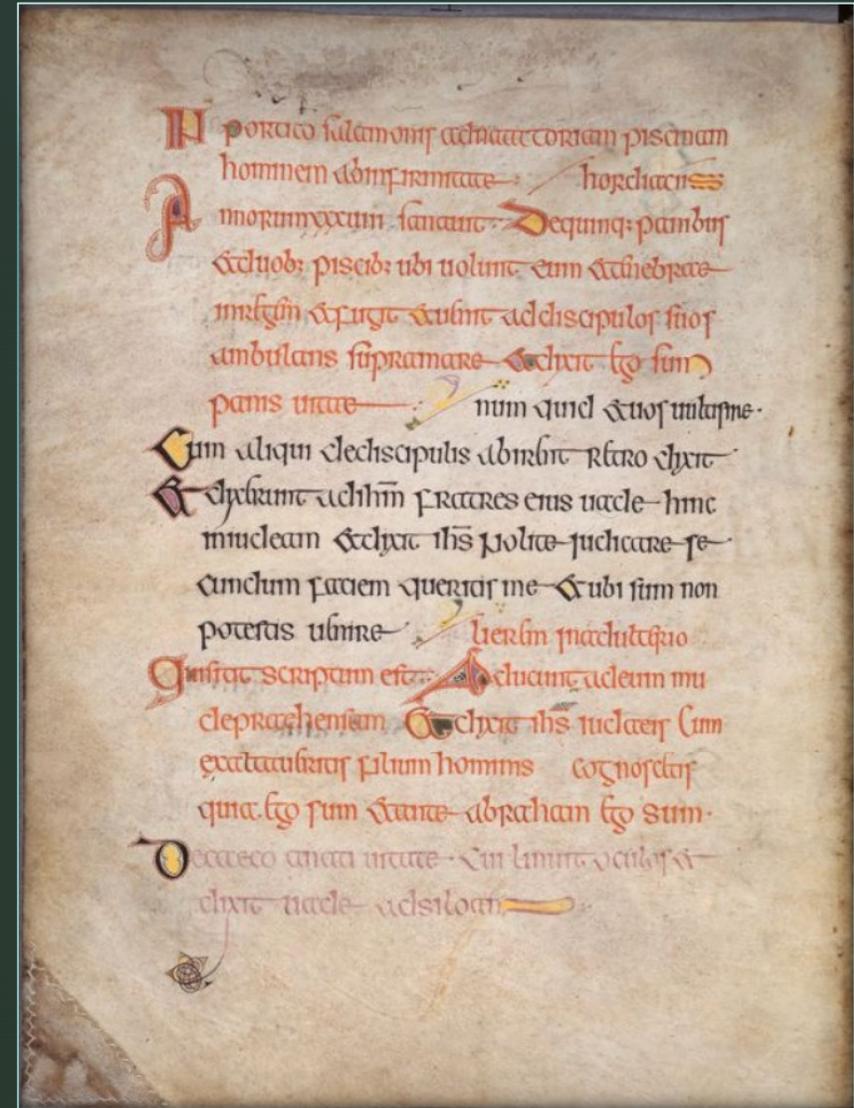


Celtic Prayer -- Homework Report ☺

Memorize one or more passages of scripture or short prayers to repeat at thresholds – waking, eating, resting, sleeping, etc.

or

Write your own *lorica* or *caim* – any style or free form



Book of Kells

Tradition of Asceticism

- Monastic vows
- Influence of Egyptian desert tradition
- Hermits and anchorites
- “Cave of the heart”
- Self-denial, seeking, freedom



Top: Hermit's Cell, Iona
Bottom: Skellig Michael

Sin, Sorrow, Soul Friendship



View from ferry to Iona

- Sin and sorrow alongside life and joy
- Compunction
- Penitence and repentance
- God's protection and mercy
- Importance of *Anam cara*

*If anybody enters the path of repentance
It is sufficient
To advance a step every day.
Do not wish to be like a charioteer
-- Rule of Comgall*

Pilgrims and Exiles

- *Peregrinatio*
- Exile with mission
- “Seeking the place of their resurrection”
- Pilgrimage to holy places



"BOUND FOR TONA WITH COLMCILLE'S BLESSING"
(A sculpture of Colmcille leaving Ireland for Scottish Shores)
By Northern Irish Artist/Sculptor
JAMES G MILES

Breakout Session #1

- Have you ever had a soul friend? What was that relationship like?
- Have you ever experienced a pilgrimage? What did you discover?



Constant Companions: The Trinity and the Saints



Trinity icon, Rublev



St. Finnian's well, Kenmare

- Interweaving of worlds
- Trinity
 - Constant invocation
 - Close at hand
 - Harmony, interdependence
- Saints
 - Approachable, member of extended family
 - Landscape as living relic

Breakout Session #2

- How do you imagine the Trinity? What do you think of the Celtic understanding?
- Do the saints play a part in your spirituality? In what way?



Iona Abbey

The Felgild Compline of Northumbria Community

+

Calm me, O Lord, as You stilled the storm.

Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease.

Enfold me, Lord, in Your peace.

* Holy One, bless the work that is done,
and the work that is to be.

* Holy One, bless the servant that I am,
and the servant that I will be.

***Thou Lord and God of power,
shield and sustain me this night.***

**I will lie down this night with God,
and God will lie down with me;
I will lie down this night with Christ,
and Christ will lie down with me;
I will lie down this night with the Spirit,
and the Spirit will lie down with me;
God and Christ and the Spirit,
be lying down with me.**

* The peace of God
be over me to shelter me,

* under me to uphold me,

* about me to protect me,

* behind me to direct me,

* ever with me to save me.

**The peace of all peace
be mine this night
+ in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**



Selected Bibliography

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The Celtic Way of Prayer
Every Earthly Blessing

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David Adams, *Borderlands*

Michael Rodgers and Marcus Losack, *Glendalough: A Celtic Pilgrimage*

Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*

Alexander Carmichael, *Carmina Gadelica*

Philip Sheldrake, *Living Between Worlds: Place and Journey in Celtic Spirituality*

Alistair Maclean, *Hebridean Altars*