

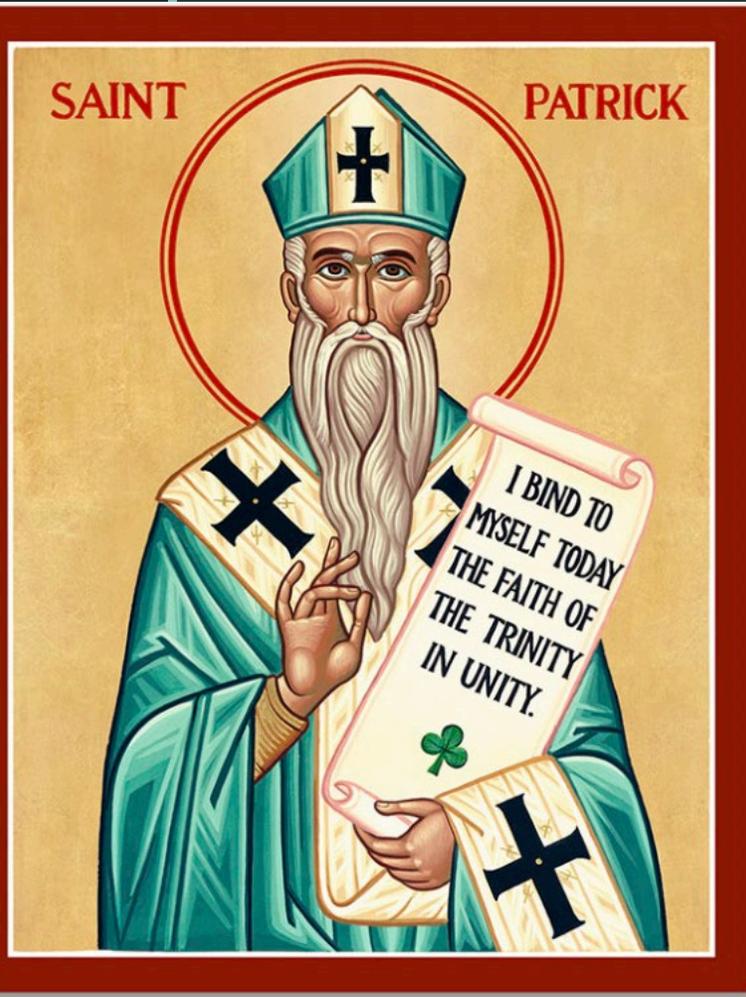
Celtic Spirituality



Old Graveyard, Kenmare, Ireland

The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty
February 16, 2022

St. Patrick's Breastplate



I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same
The Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this today to me forever
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in Jordan river,
His death on cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb,
His riding up the heavenly way,
His coming at the day of doom
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the star lit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;
The Word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Celtic Spirituality and Religion

- Tradition vs. defined culture or nation
- Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Isle of Mann, Cornwall, Brittany (France), parts of Spain and Portugal
- Distinctive language, poetry, prayers, art
- Pre-Christian + Christian
- Free of the Roman Empire

What's the difference between spirituality and religion?





Inishbofin, Ireland

- Rural life
- Clan, kin, and kinship
- Oral culture
- Monastic influence
- Incorporated pre-Christian religious traditions



St. Brigid's Well, Kildare

Particular Way of Seeing the World

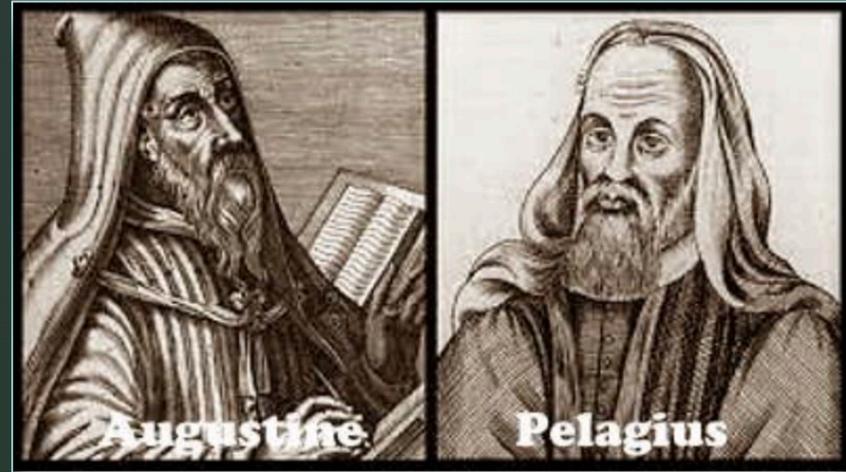


- Sacred essence of all things
- Spiritual and material worlds woven together
- Divine presence active and close at hand

Inishbofin, West Quarter

Pelagius (c.354-418)

- Earliest Celtic Christian writer/theologian
- Original goodness or original sin?
- Purpose of God's grace?
- Pantheism or panentheism?
- Wisdom or heresy?



Nuremberg Chronicle

“Narrow shafts of divine light pierce the veil that separates heaven from earth”

Celtic Spirituality



Nunnery, Iona

- Immediate sense of God's presence
- Creation as revelation
- Great cloud of witnesses
- Darkness and light held together
- "Breathing together of all things"
- Belief → transformation

*"Behold the Lightener of the stars,
On the crests of the clouds,
And the choralists of the sky
Lauding Him . . ."*

Breakout Session #1

- What is familiar or rings true to you about Celtic spirituality?
- What puzzles you or doesn't match your experience?



St. Martin's Cross, Iona

Prayer in the Celtic Tradition

- Prayer embedded in daily rhythms – an office of thresholds
- Memorization of prayers and short passages of scripture
- Work as silent meditation
- Foundation: praise and thanksgiving
- Open eyes to see God in all things
- Lorica and *caim*



Some Celtic Prayers

*Even as I clothe my body with wool
Cover Thou my soul
with the shadow of Thy wing*

Dressing Prayer

*The guarding of the God of life be upon me,
The guarding of the loving Christ be upon me,
The guarding of the Holy Spirit be upon me,
Each step of the way,
To aid and enfold me,
Each day and night of my life*

Caim for a Journey

*I arise today
through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.*

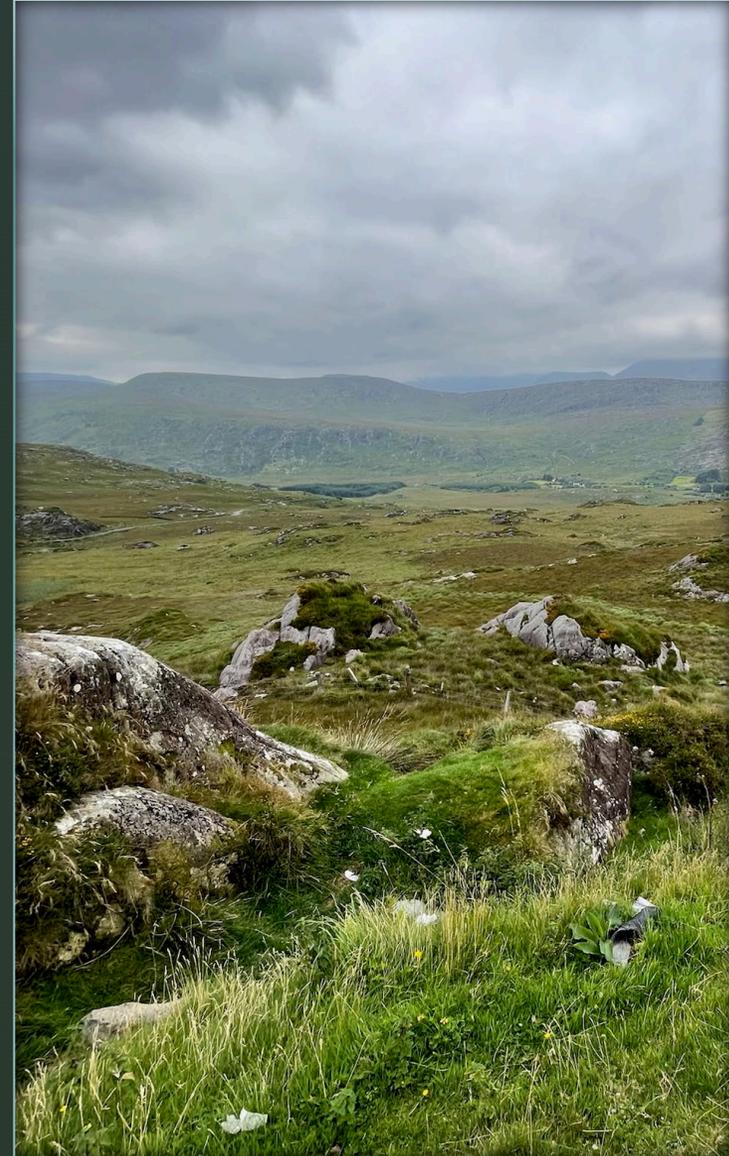
Lorica of Brigid



Inishbofin, East End

Breakout Session #2

- What elements or experiences of creation speak to you of God?
- What thresholds do you experience during your day?
- What about Celtic prayer would you like to learn more about or practice?



Black Valley, Kerry, Ireland

Jennifer's Shawl

I wrap around myself today
The full name of the Trinity
Its truth, its strength, its lively grace
Our God is One and known in Three

I wrap this day 'round me forever
The gift of faith, Christ's human birth
His teaching, healing, wisdom giving
His laying down his life on earth
His turning death into rich life
His forging a new community
His Holy Spirit to cure our strife
I wrap around myself today

I wrap around myself today
God's steadfast love and righteous mind
God's call of justice, lavish mercy
God's heartbeat and my own entwined
The Spirit's ear to hear my prayer
Angelic host to light my way
God's bracing arm to stand me up
And witness to the Word today

I wrap around myself today
God's image in creation's mirror
The roots of trees that feed each other
The birds' sure call, quick, brave, and clear
The warm earth's tender, supple shoots
The mighty waves' eternal roar
The joyful dance of sun and moon
The brilliant stars at heaven's door

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ beside me, Christ to guide me,
Christ in hearts of all that love me

Brigid before, Columba behind
Clare on my left, Patrick my right
Joseph, Lizzie, the cloud of saints,
Christ be our shield, Christ be our light

I wrap around myself today
The full name of the Trinity
Its truth, its strength, its lively grace
Our God is One and known in Three
From whom all birth and being flows
Creator, Savior, Spirit True
My love and life belong to God
Oh Christ, I give myself to you.

(After St. Patrick's Breastplate)

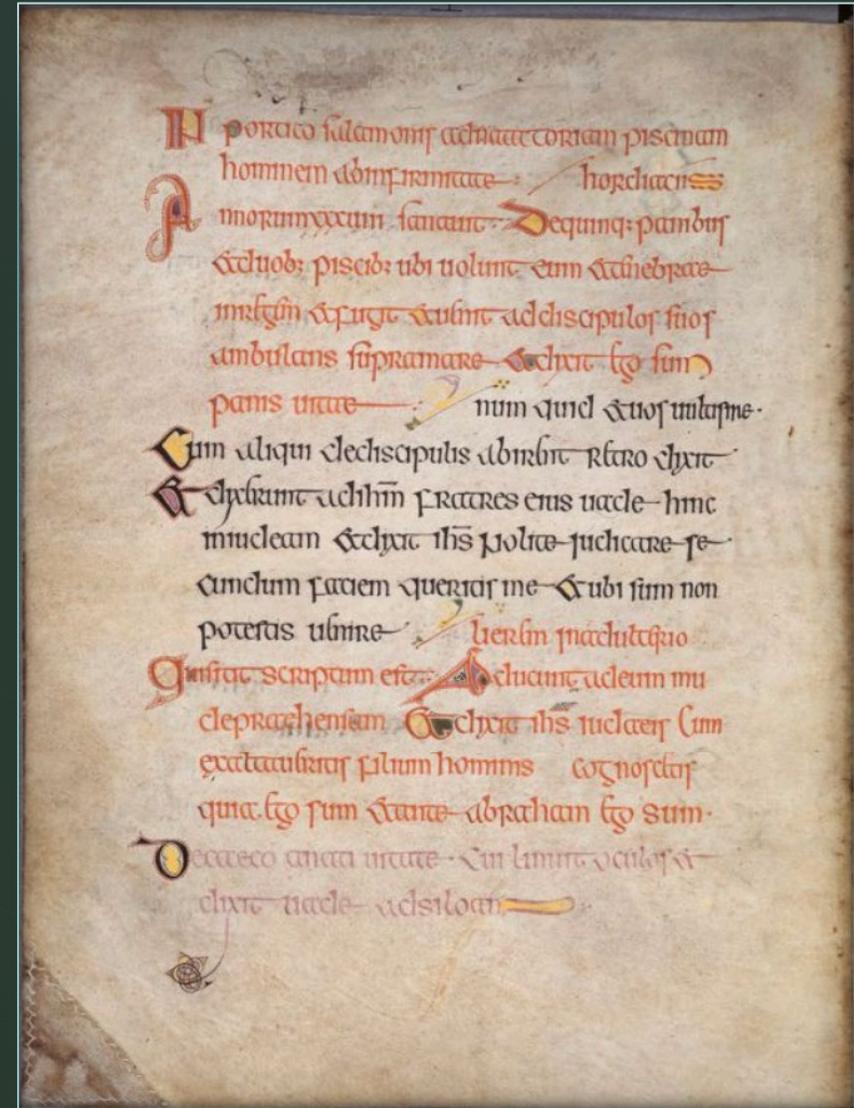


Homework

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

or

Write your own lorica – any style or free form



Book of Kells

Night Prayer

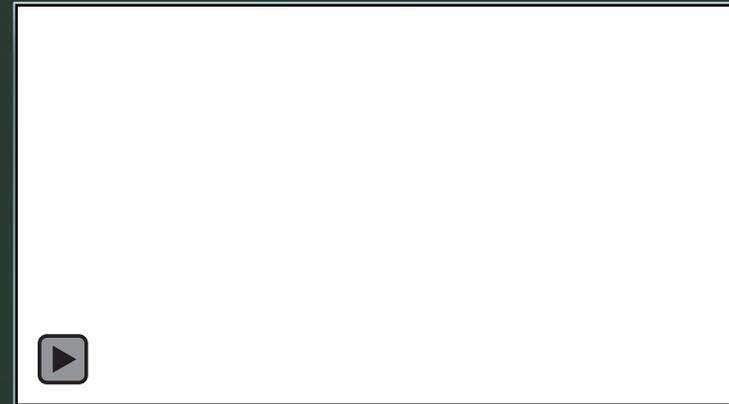
The stillness of God be mine this night, that I may sleep in peace.

The awareness of the angels be mine this night, that I may be alert to unseen mysteries.

The company of the saints be mine this night, that I may dream of the river of love.

The life of Christ be mine this night, that I may be truly alive to the morning, that I may be truly alive.

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Iona Harbor

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