

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition
First Sundays, Life Together at 8:00 a.m.
The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ
August 6 , 2023



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**Welcome to St. Paul's, First Sundays,
Life Together at 8:00 a.m.**

This is a service of silence and prayer, loosely based on the order for morning prayer in Iona Abbey. It is led by Lay and Clergy Worship Leaders and is intended to include long silences which begin and end with the ringing of a bell.

(At the beginning of worship, you are invited to place an offering in the Alms Basin.)

Leader: Rick Wile

(seated in silence)

Opening Responses

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

ALL: GOD WAS.

Leader: Here and now, among us, beside us, clearer than air,
closer than breathing,

ALL: GOD IS.

Leader: In all that is to come, when we have turned to dust
and human knowledge has been completed,

ALL: GOD WILL BE.

Leader: Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it, not
condemning the world, but redeeming it through
Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: GOD WAS, GOD IS, GOD WILL BE.

Hymn #383 Fairest Lord Jesus *(said in unison)*

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou God of man the Son;
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy God, Maker of all,

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of Mary,

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Holy Spirit, breath of life.

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Let us in silence remember our own faults and failings.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Leader: In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of all God's people, I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed. I have not loved God, cared for God's world, or respected God's people as I should. I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

ALL: MAY GOD FORGIVE US, CHRIST BEFRIEND US,
AND THE SPIRIT RENEW AND CHANGE OUR
LIVES.

Leader: Amen.

ALL: IN THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH
AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE,
WE CONFESS TO GOD THAT WE HAVE SINNED
IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE NOT
LOVED GOD, CARED FOR GOD'S WORLD, OR RE-
SPECTED GOD'S PEOPLE AS WE SHOULD. WE
OWN OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND PRAY FOR
GOD'S PARDON.

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ befriend us, and the Spirit renew and change our lives.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: Turn again, O Lord, and give us life.

ALL: THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN YOU.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

ALL: AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help

ALL: WITH YOUR SPIRIT OF FREEDOM SUSTAIN US.

Leader: And now, as Jesus taught us, we say,

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.
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL,
FOR THE KINGDOM,
THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS,
NOW AND FOR EVER.
AMEN.

Word of God

Leader: Let us listen for the Word of the Lord.

ALL: OUR EARS ARE OPEN.

(a volunteer reads the lesson slowly)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke 9: 28-36.

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

ALL: AMEN.

Canticle (in unison) O wondrous type! O vision fair

- 1 O wondrous type! O vision fair
of glory that the Church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun he glows!

- 2 With Moses and Elijah nigh
the incarnate Lord holds converse high;
and from the cloud, the Holy One
bears record to the only Son.

- 3 With shining face and bright array,
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above
who joy in God with perfect love.
- 4 And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful strains we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Leader: Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

Leader: To those who speak for the voiceless and defend the persecuted, to those who protest for a fairer world and practice simpler lives, to those who share their faith in Jesus in places where faith is suspected, God of justice,

ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

Leader: And to us, that we might serve and love you
with body, soul and mind; God of justice,
ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Closing responses

Leader: Hear these prayers made in the presence and in the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Leader: We will not offer to God.

ALL: OFFERINGS THAT COST US NOTHING.

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

ALL: WE WILL SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

Leader: Glory be to God who made us and to Christ who
saved us and to the Holy Spirit who keeps us in
faith.

ALL: AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOW,
AND SHALL BE FOR EVER. AMEN.

You are encouraged to remain in silence.