



## Celtic Prayer Service

Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8, 2022**

*(Service begins at the sounding of the bells)*

Welcome

Rev. Kate Pinkham

Prelude

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

Richard M.S. Irwin

Gathering Words *(responsive)*

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.**

Opening Scripture

*"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. Psalm 63:3-4*

*Silence*

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

**O Christ of the poor and the yearning, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love for our neighbors, for our foes, for our friends, for our kindred all. From the humblest things that lives to the Name that is highest of all, kindle in our hearts within a flame of Love. Today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.**

Prayer for Light (*responsive*)

We will light a light in the name of the Creator.

**Who lights the world with the bright sun,  
the pale moon and glistening stars.**

We will light a light in the name of the Son.

**Who pierces the darkness with his perpetual light.**

We will light a light in the name of the Spirit.

**Who gives us the spark of life.**

Poem

*Light*

by John Philip Newell

*Silence is kept.*

\*Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

1 Be Thou my Vision,  
O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me,  
save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought,  
by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping,  
thy presence my light.

2 Be Thou my Wisdom,  
and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee,  
and Thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father,  
I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling,  
And I with Thee One.

3 Be Thou my battle Shield,  
Sword for the fight;  
Thou my Delight;  
Thou my soul's Shelter,  
Thou my high Tower:  
Raise thou me heavenward  
O Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not,  
Nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance,  
Now and always:  
Thou and Thou only,  
First in my heart,  
High King of Heaven  
My Treasure Thou art.

5 High King of Heaven,  
My victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys,  
O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart,  
Whatever be fall.  
Still be my vision,  
O Ruler of All

Poem

*Colorful Creator*

Ruth Duck

The Reading of the Word

One: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God  
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**All: Our hearts and minds are open.**

Scripture

Ephesians 4:1-16

Message

I'll Be with You Always

by Joni Eareckson Tada

\*Hymn

*Abide with Me*

Abide with me; fast falls the even tide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joy grow dim; its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing day;  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Prayers of the Church

*(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 this morning:

\*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:

**\*We pray for ourselves, that we may release our own worries, trust in God's love, receive God's forgiveness, and be instruments of God's healing and peace.**

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

Music for Meditation and Prayer

*You are welcome to come forward to light a taper from the Christ candle and place it in the sand as a symbol of your prayer.*

Sharing the Sign of Peace

Christ binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

*The Congregation greets one another in the name of the Lord with a wave or a nod.*

*After exchanging the Peace, please sit.*

\*Hymn

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

1. Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

\*Closing Prayer:

**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 be 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)*

Blessing

## **Edgecomb Community Church, UCC**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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