

# Celtic Prayer Service

Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

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

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost, September 25, 2022



**Celtic Cross**

Welcome Everyone! To prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed. Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service but are located at the entrances to the church.

We are aware that persons here come from several faith traditions and are delighted for your presence. The mixture of faith traditions that makes up this community are cherished. We are glad you are here.

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

WELCOME

Rev. Kate Pinkham

PRELUDE

*Give Thanks*

Elaine Johnson

HymnServe.com

OPENING POEM *(in unison)* Cover My Soul with the Shadow of Your Wing

**Thanks to you, O God, that I have risen today,  
to the rising of life itself;  
may it be to your own glory,  
O God of every gift,  
and to the glory of my soul likewise.  
O great God, aid my soul  
with the aiding of your own mercy;  
even as I clothe my body with wool,  
cover my soul with the shadow of your wing.  
Help me to avoid every sin,  
and the source of every sin to forsake;  
and as the mist scatters**

on the crest of the hills,  
may each ill haze clear from my soul, O God.

Source: Adapted from Carmina Gadelica

#### OPENING RESPONSES

One: The Love of Christ surround us.

**All: The Light of Christ lead us.**

One: The Peace of Christ fill us.

**All: The Power of Christ aid us.**

One: The Joy of Christ thrill us.

**All: The presence of Christ be with us evermore.**

POEM

*Changed for the Healing of the World*

John Philip Newall

#### THE LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLES

One: We light a light in the name of the Maker,

**All: who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us.**

One: We light a light in the name of the Son,

**All: who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us.**

One: We light a light in the name of the Spirit,

**All: who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning.**

One: We light three lights for the Trinity of Love:

**All: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us: The beginning, the end, the everlasting One.**

*Silence is kept.*

**All: The Lord is with us, with love to enfold us, with joy to crown us, the Lord is with us.**

POEM

An excerpt from "*Six Recognitions of the Lord*," from *Thirst*, by Mary Oliver

\*HYMN

*God is Love Let Heaven Adore Him*

Richard MS Irwin

1. God is love, let heaven adore him;

God is love, let earth rejoice;

Let creation sing before him

And exalt him with one voice.

God who laid the earth's foundation,

God who spread the heav'ns above,

God who breathes through all creation:

God is love, eternal love.

2. God is love; and love enfolds us,  
 All the world in one embrace;  
 With unfailing grasp God holds us,  
 Ev'ry child of ev'ry race.  
 And when human hearts are breaking  
 Under sorrow's iron rod,  
 Then we find that selfsame aching  
 Deep within the heart of God.

3. God is love; and though with blindness  
 Sin afflicts all human life,  
 God's eternal loving-kindness  
 Guides us through our earthly strife.  
 Sin and death and hell shall never  
 O'er us final triumph gain:  
 God is love, so love forever  
 O'er the universe must reign.

SHARING OF THE DAY – *Share a word or image from today which is special to you in some way.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 150

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

*Silence is observed after the reading*

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

One: All things are yours, O God of all creation,

**All: And so we return our gifts to you.**

One: Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made;

**All: May it become for us the bread of life.**

One: Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this cup to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;

**All: May it become for us the cup of blessing.**

One: Great Creator Spirit, from whom all life comes forth, here we gather again with bread and with wine, seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished, hungering for wholeness in our lives, for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.

**All: Here we gather with bread and with cup, but with more than bread and cup.**

One: Here we gather with creation's elements all around us. With earth, air, fire, and water still expanding through the universe, with the glory of the sun, the whiteness of the moon, the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.

**All: Here we gather with bread and with cup, but with more than bread and cup.**

One: So with everything that we see and sense around us, with visible and

invisible energies that pulse with life, we join our souls in the song that vibrates throughout the whole of creation.

**All**            **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

One:            Blessed are you, O God of all creation, your glory knows no bounds, and your love is without end. Come upon us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and upon this bread and cup, that we may be renewed once again, and that as the whole of life is made new, we may find your peace within and around us. We ask this in the Name of God who creates us, who redeems us, and who sustains us. Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### COMMUNION IS SHARED

#### HYMN FOR MEDITATION

#### WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

One:            We give you thanks, O God, for calling us together this morning and for sustaining us with this holy meal. This place is sacred, this time is sacred, and in this place and this time, we have shared a mystery. May we in every place and time recognize the sacredness of life, and may we accept the mystery as we accept your love.

One:            Wherever we go, may the joy of God the gracious

**All:            Be with us.**

One:            Wherever we go, may the face of Christ the kindly

**All:            Be with us.**

One:            Wherever we go, may the compassing of the Spirit of grace

**All:            Be with us.**

One:            Wherever we go, the presence of the Trinity around us

**All:            To bless and to keep us.**

#### PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray for the Church and the world. *(A circle prayer. Imagine throwing a pebble into the center of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the center.)*

One:            We pray firstly for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends - for their health, needs, joys and fears.

**All: God of creation, God of Salvation**  
**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

One: We pray for our extended family and friends who we might not see each week - for their love and concern, for their wellbeing.

**All: God of creation, God of Salvation**  
**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

One: As the ripples reach out toward the land we pray for those who we only have contact with annually or less - for a blessing this Advent-time

**All: God of creation, God of Salvation**  
**Hear the prayers of our hearts**

One: And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people - for the needs of this week and the future.

**All: God of creation, God of Salvation**  
**Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper**  
**Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love**  
**Hear the prayers of our hearts.**

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 A 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. **All: *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 remain standing.*

**\*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, and I Thy true son  
 Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
 Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
 High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

4. High King of heaven, my victory won  
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright  
 heaven's sun  
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
 Still be my vision, O ruler of all

**\*ENDING PRAYER**

In all our travelling  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 In our journeying to work and returning  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 Within our homes and families  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 In our leisure time together  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 In difficult situations and conflict  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 As we stumble on the way  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 In the travelling of our faith  
 May your footsteps guide us  
 As we place our trust in you  
**May your footsteps guide us**  
 In all our travelling. Lord,  
 may it be your footsteps  
 in which we place our feet.

*From Heart2Heart, John Birch*

**\*SCOTTISH BLESSING****\*Please stand**

We remember in our prayers: Calla Wells, Sheila, Friend of Sam & Pam, Glen Johnsen, son of Carol Johnsen, Ginny Kroitzch, Dottie, a family member of the Boudin family, Greg Foster and his son, Joel, a neighbor of Susan Greene, Gary Spurgat, Kathleen Grigg, the Family of Ruth Sasala, The Family of Gloria Bailey, Mike Finnegan, Joe Evans, Ron Leeman, Carol & Eric Johnsen, George & Pat Greene, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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*An Open and Affirming Congregation,*

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