

**Samples of Worship Material
similar to that in
The Celtic Prayer in Four Volumes**

Echoes Volume 1 Prayer Rhythms: fourfold patterns for each day

Sundays and New life theme

Sunday Morning Intercessions

Leader We pray for believers
All May their lives be signs of joyful service

Leader May our churches bring honour to you, and faith to the people
All May they be places of healing and welcome

Leader We pray for people in authority
All May they strive for justice and peace

Leader May this be a day of refreshment for families and single people,
 traders and communities.
All May our homes be places of hospitality and hope

Leader May we know your presence as we enjoy the company of others.

All The God of life go with us
 The Risen Christ beside us
 The vibrant Spirit within us
 Amen!

Sunday Evening

Spirit of the Risen Christ,
As the lamps light up the evening,
Shine into our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Leader We offer to you, Lord, the troubles of this day;
 we lay down our burdens at your feet.
 Forgive us our sins, give us your peace,
 and help us to receive your Word.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Leader We give you thanks, our Father, that you are always present, in all things,
 each day and each night. We give you thanks for your gifts of creation, life
 and friendship. We give you thanks for the particular blessings of this day

INTERCESSION

*In the following intercessions there may be prepared or free prayer where indicated (...).
The people may say a response such as 'Lord graciously here us' where indicated (R).*

Leader Into your hands, O Lord, we place our families, our neighbours, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and all whom we have met today ...; enfold them in your will. (R)

Leader Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are victims of prejudice, oppression or neglect; the frail, the unwanted..... May everyone be cherished from conception to the grave. (R)

Leader Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are restless, sick, or prey to the powers of evil...; keep guard over them (R)

Leader Risen Christ -
religious Bring renewal to the the land and to the church; to ordained ministries and to
need of our times communities; raise up new callings and communities, which meet the

Mondays and Creation Theme

Morning Lament

Creator and Saviour, we have:
exploited earth for our selfish ends
turned our backs on the cycles of life
and forgotten we are your stewards.
Now soils become barren
Air and water become unclean
Species disappear,
and humans are diminished.
In penitence we come to you.

There may be silence, free prayer, music of lament, or the following confession

Leader God, have mercy
All Christ, have mercy
Leader God, have mercy.

Intercessions

Worker Christ, as we enter our workplace, may we bring your presence with us.
Grace us to speak your peace and perfect order into its atmosphere.
Remind us to acknowledge your authority over all that will be thought,
decided and accomplished within it.
Give us a fresh supply of truth and beauty on which to draw as we work.

Midday

Great Spirit, whose breath is felt in the soft breeze,
And whose life surges through socket and screen
We seek your strength in the middle of the day.
May we, and the peoples of the world

Work in dignity and walk in the beauty of the day.

All Blest be God the birther of life
Blest be God the giver of light
Blest be God the bestower of skills

Night

Let the light fade and the work be done
Let the flowers and the desk tops close
Let the sun go down and the world become still
And let the Son of God draw near

Leader Blest be all creation
All And all that has life
Leader Blest be the earth
All May it uplift our bed tonight
Leader Blest be the fire
All May it glow in us tonight
Leader Blest be the air
All May it make our night breath sweet

There may be singing

Reader *Psalm 104:1-4, 19-24 or other verses from this psalm*

Leader We give you thanks that you are always present, in all things,
each day and each night.
We give you thanks for your gifts of creation, life and friendship.
We give you thanks for the blessings of this day ...

Any *Blessings may be named in silence or aloud*

Leader When we are still we can sense you our Maker
We can feel your hand upon us
All that has been made stirs within us creation's song of praise.

All Now we give you thanks for work completed
We give you thanks for rest of night

There may be silence or singing.

Reader *Genesis 1:3-5, 31a or words of Jesus*

Leader Guardian of the planets
Kindler of the stars
We pass into the darkness
Encompassed by you.

Leader We offer you our concerns and the needs of your creation

There may be prepared, silent or free prayer

Leader Thank you for your love for us, strong and nurturing

All We give back our lives to you
 Leader Thank you for our minds and bodies
 All We give back our lives to you
 Leader Thank you for the past day
 All We give back our lives to you
 Leader After creation God rested
 All We give back our lives to you

Leader Protect us through the hours of this night,
 be they silent or stormy,
 that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of a restless world
 may rest upon you eternally.

Leader You created the world out of love
 All Now we return to you in love.
 Leader Let us rest in God this night.
 All And awake in newness of life.

Echoes Volume Two

SAINTS OF THE ISLES A YEAR'S FEASTS

Daily Bible Readings, Prayers & Highlights

Including the saints of the Bible and early centuries celebrated by Anglicans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics in Celtic lands

There is one entry for each day of the year.
 Two sample pages, an extract from the Introduction and the calendar follow.

31 July Joseph of Arimathea, and the Glastonbury saints 1st c

Introduction

Gildas the Wise, first writer of the Britons, who lived near Glastonbury, claimed that the Light of Christ came to these islands, stiff with pagan coldness, within a decade of Christ' death. After Jerusalem's Christians were scattered in 66 the noble Joseph of Arimathea, came, according to widespread church tradition, to found a church at Glastonbury. Joseph had the courage and integrity to give Jesus a worthy burial place in his garden cemetery. He is thought to be an uncle of Jesus and a tin trader who was familiar with the Cornish tin trade route. Tradition also says that Aristobulus was Britain's first Bishop and that the British King Lucius invited Fagan and Dyfan to restore the church. Archeologists confirm that the church here is very early, as is a hermit settlement. Glastonbury was then an island, the Avalon that was introduced into the fables about King Arthur. In recent times the mystic Marjorie Milne, who believed that Glastonbury was meant to a spiritual heart of England, and who prayed three hours each day in its churches, called for the re-kindling of Glastonbury's Christian vision.

Prayer

Holy love rest on us, tongues of fire light on us, wind of God, carry us where you will
Marjorie Milne of Glastonbury

Readings Psalm 122 Isaiah 62:1-5 Acts 7:59-8:4

15 November Malo, rugged apostle of Brittany 7th c (if transferred from November 14)

Introduction

Malo was born in Gwent. His parents had him educated at the famous Llancarvan monastery founded by Cadoc, but when they came for him to start a career he ran to an isle and refused to leave until they agreed he could be ordained. By then he had learned the entire Psalter by heart. About 547 Malo, in common with multitudes who were fleeing the plague, emigrated to Brittany. He established an island hermitage as a mission base for the the region around Aleth. He founded faith communities and built cells where converts could make retreat. Today that area is named St Malo. Malo spent time with Columbanus at Luxeuil, confronted the sins of warring rulers and gave refuge to their children. He was a rugged pioneer who sang psalms on horseback, loved flowers, and allowed the locals to play a practical joke on him. In old age he became irritable and increasingly retreated to his islet of Aaron. He could be domineering, and unhappy local bishops asked him to leave and settle at Saintes.

Prayer

Rugged and real was your servant Malo, Lord, a man of faith, though not without faults. You are a real God and on earth you were tempted as we are. Help us to be real men and real women for your sake and for the sake of the world.

Readings Psalm 95 Genesis 49:22-26 Hebrews 2:10-18

From Introduction

If we feed our minds on great persons we are more likely to become a great people.

If, as a multi ethnic society, we know about the great souls who have lived on the soil which is our home, we are more likely to bond and grow well...

This book can be used in these ways:

By individuals as a daily inspirational companion

By churches and households as a resource for particular saints days....

A prophecy about to be fulfilled?

King Edward of England, Confessor of Christ, died on January 5 1066. According to his *Life* (Vita AEdwardi Regis, ca. 1065-1067 Nelson Medieval Texts 1962), some time before he died he had a vision in which two deceased monks he had known in Normandy appeared to him and foretold that since the people in high office were not what they seemed, but in reality served devils rather than God, one year and one day after Edward's death God would ravage the land with sword and fire. Exactly one year and one day after his death William the Conqueror, who led the Norman Invasion which oppressed

the church and people, was crowned king. In the vision Edward then asked the messengers when there would be forgiveness so that God's design could be shown to the people. They replied: When a green tree, if cut down in the middle of its trunk, and the part cut off carried the space of three furlongs from the stock, shall be joined again to the trunk, by itself and without the hand of man or any sort of stake, and begin once more to push leaves and bear fruit from the old love of its uniting sap, then first can remission of these great ills be hoped for.' (Quoted on page 251 of *Saints of England's Golden Age* compiled by Vladimir Moss - Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies California 2000).

We believe that the present renewal of the Celtic Christian Tradition, with its organic re-connecting of the strands in Christianity that became separated, is a sign that the fulfilment of this prophecy is near.

**A Calendar of Saints Days
observed by Anglican, Orthodox or Roman Catholic Churches in Celtic lands**

1 January	Basil, Archbishop of Caesarea 379
2 January	Seraphim, Staretz of Sarov, 1833
3 January	Malachi, prophet 400 BC
4 January	The Seventy apostles 1st c
6 January	The three wise ones (Epiphany)
7 January	Cedd of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons 664 Brannoc of Braunton 6th c
10 January	Paul the first hermit of Thebes 345 (or 5th or 15th)
12 January	Aelred Abbot of Rievaulx 1167 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth 689
13 January	Kentigern (Mungo) first Bishop of Glasgow and Strathclyde 603 Hilary Bishop of Poitiers 367
14 January	Abbot Moses and the martyrs of Sinai desert 4-5th c
15 January	Ita Abbess of Killeedy, 570 Ceowulf, King and monk of Northumbria 760 or 764
16 January martyr	Furseigh Enlightener 650, and Sigebert, 635 King and of the East Angles and Honoratus, founder of Lerins monastery 429
17 January	Antony, desert hermit and abbot, 356
18 January	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria 353
19 January	Branwalader (Brelade) of Cornwall and the Channel Isles 6th c
20 January	Fechin, abbot and founder of monasteries 665
21 January	Sebastian, martyr c 300 (transferred from 20th)
24 January	Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, spiritual guide, 1662 (transferred from 24)
25 January	The Conversion of St Paul 1st c
26 January	Apostles Timothy and Titus 1st c Conan, Bishop of Sodor and Man 648
28 January	Isaac, Bishop of Nineveh 7th c
29 January	Gildas the Wise, Abbot of Llaniltud and Brittany, writer 570
1 February	Brigid of Ireland, Abbess of Kildare, 525
4 February	Ives (ia) virgin, patron of St Ives, Cornwall (transferred from 3rd)
6 February	Mael Bishop of Ardagh 488
8 February	Elffleda, Abbess of Whitby, 714
9 February	Teilo, Bishop of Llanduff and Llandeilo Fawr 6th c
10 February	Trumwine, missionary, bishop of Abercorn and monk at Whitby 704
11 February	Caedmon of Whitby, monk and songwriter 680

12 February Ethelwold of Lindisfarne 740
 13 February Apostles Aquila and Priscilla, 1st c
 14 February Cyril and Methodius, Enlighteners of the Slavs 885
 15 February Oswy King of Northumbria 670
 17 February Finan, Abbot and Bishop of Lindisfarne, 661
 18 February Colman, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Abbot of Innishbofin, 676
 23 February Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna, martyr 167
 25 February Ethelbert, King of Kent 616
 28 February Cassian , 435

1 March David of Wales, Bishop 6th c.
2 March Chad, Bishop of Lichfield 672
 3 March Non, mother of David 6th c
 Winwaloe, Abbot of Llandevennec 6thc.
 5 March Piran hermit of Cornwall 480
 Kieran of Saighir 5-6th c
 7 March Perpetua, martyr 203
 Easterwine, monk of Wearmouth 686
 8 March Felix of Burgundy Bishop of Dunwich 648
 Senan, Abbot of Inniscarra 544
 9 March Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, writer 395
 Constantine, Cornish King, monk, martyr 576?
 12 March Paul Aurelian, Bishop of Pol de Leon, 6thc
17 March Patrick, apostle to the Irish 461?
 Withburga, solitary of Holkham 743
 20 March Herbert, hermit of Derwentwater 687
20 March Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, Bishop 6 87

4 April Isidore, Bishop of Seville 636
 7 April Brynach of Braunton 6th c
 8 April Saints and martyrs of the Americas
 11 April Guthlac, hermit of Crowland 714
 17 April Donan, Abbot of Eigg and the Pictish martyrs 618
 21 April Beuno, Abbot of Clynnog 640
 23 April George, martyr
 24 April Egbert of Lindisfarne 729
 25 April Mark, apostle
 29 April Endellion, virgin of Cornwall 6th? c
 30 April Erconwald, Bishop of London 693

1 May Joseph the worker, father of Jesus.
 2 May Athanasius, patriarch of Alexandria 373
 3 May Philip and James, apostles
 5 May Asaph, Bishop of Llanelwy 6-7th c
 6 May Eadbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne 698
 7 May John of Beverley, Bishop of York 721
 8 May Julian, anchoress and mystic of Norwich
 10 May Comgall, Abbot of Bangor, Ireland 601
 14 May Matthew, apostle
16 May Brendan the Voyager, Abbot of Clonfert 575
 19 May Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury 988
 20 May Alcuin of York, Abbot of Tours, 804
 21 May Helena, Empress, Protector of holy places, 330
 24 May Vincent of Lerins 5th c

25 May Bede the Venerable, monk and historian of Jarrow 735
Aldhem, Bishop of Sherborne 709

26 May Augustine of Canterbury 605

27 May Melangell, hermit of Pennant Melangell 590

28 May Bishop of Paris 576

31 May Mary and Elizabeth - soul friends 1st c

1 June Justin, philosopher and martyr 166
Ronan of Cornwall and Brittany

3 June Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough 618

4 June Petroc, Abbot of Padstow 6th c

5 June Boniface of Crediton, Archbishop of Mainz, martyr, 754.

7 June Colman, Bishop of Dromore 6th c

9 June Columba of Iona, 597
Ephrem of Edessa, monk and liturgist, 373

11 June Barnabas and Bartholomew, apostles 1st c

14 June Fathers of the Eastern Church

17 June Nectan of Hartland 6th c

20 June Alban, Julius and Aaron, first British martyrs 3rd c.

19 June Sundar Singh, Sadhu, 1929

20 June Govan, hermit, 6th c.

23 June Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely 679

24 June John, prophet, forerunner and baptiser, 1st c

25 June Moluag founder of monasteries, 592

28 June Austell and Meen of Cornwall 6th c

29 June Peter and Paul, apostles 1st c

1 July Serf, apostle of Western Fife 6thc

3 July Germanus, Bishop of the Isle of Man 5th c

4 July Martin of Tours

5 July Morwenna, patron of Morwenstow 6th c

6 July Sexburga, Abbess of Ely c700

7 July Palladius, Bishop in Ireland 432
Hedda, Bishop of the West Saxons 705
Willibald, bishop of Eichstatt 786
Boisil, Abbot of Melrose, 661
Maelruan, Abbot, reformer, founder of Tallaght monastery, 792

12 July Healing the land

15 July Swithun, Bishop of Winchester 862

16 July Helier and Marcoul of Jersey 6thc

19 July Macrina, hermit and teacher, 379.

22 July Mary Magdalen, 1st c

23 July Bridget of Sweden 1373
Cassian, Abbot, writer, 433

24 July Declan, Bishop of Ardmore 5th c

25 July James, apostle, 1st c

26 July Anne and Joachim, parents of the Virgin Mary 1st c

28 July Samson of Britain and Bishop of Dol, Brittany c 565

29 July Martha, Mary and Lazarus, 1st c

31 July Joseph of Arimathea and the Glastonbury saints 1st c
Germanus
Neot, monk and hermit
Ignatius Loyola 1556

4 August John Vianney, Cure d' Ars 1859
 5 August **Oswald, King and martyr 642**
 6 August **The Transfiguration of Christ**
 10 August Lawrence of Rome, martyr, 258
 11 August Blane, Bishop of Bute (Dunblane) late 6th c
 Clare, founder of the Poor Claret, 1253
 14 August Fachanan Abbot of Ross Carberry c 600
 15 August The passing to glory of the Virgin Mary 1st c
 20 August Oswin, King of Northumbria, martyr 651
 22 August Sigfrid, Abbot of Wearmouth 688
 23 August Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons 202
 24 August St Bartholomew, apostle, 1st c
 25 August Ebbe, first Abbess of Coldingham 683
 Relics of Hilda of Whitby translated
 26 August **St Ninian, apostle to Picts, Bishop of Whithorn, Galloway c 432**
(or 16 September or 16 November)
 28 August Monica, 387, and her son Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430
 29 August Sebba King of the East Saxons c 694
 31 August **Aidan of Lindisfarne, apostle to the English, 651**

1 September Drithelm, hermit of Melrose c 700
 3 September Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604
 6 September Bega, first Abbess of Copeland, Cumbria 7th c
 8 September Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1st c
 9 September Cieran of Clonmacnoise c 545
 10 September Finian of Ulster, Abbot 579
 11 September Deiniol, Abbot of Bangor, Bishop of Clwyd c 584
 12 September Eanswythe, of Folkestone, virgin c640
 13 September John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407
 14 September The True Cross
 15 September Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage 258
 16 September Ninian, apostle to the Picts, Bishop of Whithorn, Galloway c 432
 17 September Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess and mystic 1179
 19 September Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury 690
 20 September Saints and martyrs of Australia and the Pacific
 21 September St Matthew, apostle, 1st c
 23 September Adomnan, Abbot of Iona 704
 25 September Finbarr, Bishop of Cork c 633
 Cadoc, monastic founder and spiritual guide, 6th c
 Ceolfrith, Abbot of Jarrow 716
 Sergius, Abbot and builder of Russia, 392
 28 September Wenceslas, martyr Prince of Bohemia 935
 29 September **Michael and the Chief Angels**
 30 September Jerome, monk, doctor of the church, 420
 Honorius, Archbishop of Canterbury 653

2 October **Guardian angels**
 8 October Iwi, hermit and miracle worker, 7th c
 9 October Denys, of Paris, bishops and martyr c258
 10 October Paulinus, Archbishop of York 644
 11 October Kenneth (Canice), Abbot of Aghaboe 7th c
 Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking c 676
 12 October Edwin, king and martyr, 633
 Wilfred, Archbishop of York 709

15 October	Teresa of Avila, foundress of the reformed Carmelites, 1582
16 October	Gall, hermit and missionary at Bangor and Luxeuil c 630 Appearance of the Archangel Michael at Mont St Michel 8th c
18 October	Luke, apostle, 1st c
20 October	Acca, Bishop of Hexham c 740
21 October	Hilarion, monastic pioneer of Palestine 371/2
22 October	Donatus of Ireland, Bishop of Fiesole c 876
23 October	James, brother of the Lord, 1st c
24 October	Maglorius of Sark, founder of monasteries, 575
25 October	Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs, c 287
26 October	Eata, Abbot of Lindisfarne and Bishop of Hexham 686
28 October	Simon and Jude, apostles, 1st c
31 October	Eve of All Saints (Halloween)
1 November	All Saints Cadfan of Bardsey 6th c
2 November	All Souls
3 November	Winefride of Holywell 7th c (or 4 November or June 22 translation of her bones)
6 November	Illtyd, Abbot of Llanilltyd Fawr 6th c All saints of Ireland
7 November	Willibrord, apostle of Frisia, Archbishop of Utrecht 739
8 November	Tyssilio, Abbot of Meifod 7th c and All saints of Wales
10 November	Justus, Archbishop of Canterbury 627
11 November	Martin, Monk and Merciful Bishop of Tours 397
12 November	Machar, Bishop of Aberdeen 6th c Cadwalader, king 664
14 November	Dyfrig (Dubricius) Bishop in Hereford and Gwent, hermit of Bardsey island c 550 Malo, apostle of Brittany 7th c
16 November	Eucherius, Bishop of Lyons 449 Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093
17 November	Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, Mother of the Church 680 Gregory, Bishop of Tours 594 Elizabeth of Hungary
18 November	Mawes, Bishop in Cornwall and Brittany 5th c
19 November	Egbert, Archbishop of York 766
20 November	Edmund, King and martyr 869
23 November	Columbanus of Ireland, Abbot of Luxeuil and Bobbio 615 Deiniol the Younger 615
24 November	Enfleda, Abbess of Whitby, widow of Oswy, King of Northumbria c 704
25 November	Alnoth of Stowe, hermit and martyr c 700
29 November	Brendan of Birr, Abbot, 'chief of the prophets of Ireland' 573
30 November	Andrew, apostle Tudwal, Bishop in Wales and Brittany 6th c
1 December	Tudwal, British Bishop, 6th c
3 December	Saints and martyrs of Asia
5 December	Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester 649/50 Justinian, hermit of Ramsay, 6th c
6 December	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (proto Santa Claus) 4th c
7 December	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan 397
8 December	Samthann, Abbess of Clonbroney, 739
12 December	Finnian, Bishop of Clonard c 549 Colman of Glendalough 659 Edburga, Abbess of Minster 751

14 December Hybald, Abbot in Lincolnshire 7th c
John of the Cross, virtual founder of the dispersed Carmelite friars, 1591
18 December Winnibald, Abbot and missionary 761
25 **December** **Nativity of our Lord**
26 **December** **Stephen, the first martyr, 1st c**
27 **December** **John, apostle and Gospel writer, 1st c**
28 **December** **Holy Innocents**
29 December Trophimus, Bishop of Arles c 250

Samples from Volume 3 of The Celtic Prayer Book

HEALING THE LAND

natural seasons, sacraments and special services

**For the Churches and households of Britain, Ireland
and the English speaking world**

from The Community of Aidan and Hilda

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First Crops
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The Last Ingathering of crops
Winter Solstice
Full and new moon
New Year's Night

A sample of one service in this volume follows:

Blessing the Earth

This may be held in the open air at mid summer or any other time

Representatives bring a small bag of earth from their area

THANKSGIVING

Leader	The earth is the Lord's
All	And everything in it
Leader	Let all the people give God praise
All	And all creation bless God's name.

There may be singing

1st her will	How precious is the soil the Lord has made. It is rich and fertile; a single seed planted in bring forth a hundred seeds.
-----------------	--

2nd	How beautiful is the soil the Lord has made. Frail seeds blown by gentle winds become
-----	---

garlands of

colour flowering in crevice and cranny.

3rd
we

How mysterious is the soil the Lord has made. Its deeps bring forth minerals with which
bring buildings, energy and ornament to our lives.

4th
fruits and

How fruitful is the soil the Lord has made. It brings forth crops of wheat and wood, of
nuts, of roots and berries.

5th

How hospitable is the soil the Lord has made. Can the sheep and cows eat grass without
the soil? Even the birds who soar above the highest mountain must return to earth to find
food. The earth provides a bed for the ocean, and a floor for humankind.

6th
and

How like a mother is the soil the Lord has made. It contains us and feeds us, it warms us
upholds us.

All

God our Provider, bless our earth and bless us your people who live by it. *

Psalm 148 may be read

PRAISE FOR THE PLANTS

The leader has a list of plants that are in the view or locality of those present. Some participants may be asked to bring a plant, or to add further examples. The leader invites everyone to raise a hand towards the sky. Those who wish to may name a plant

Leader
All

For ____ (*name the plant*)
We bless you generous Giver

Any
All

For ____ (*name of plant*)
We bless you generous Giver

Leader
the
and

High King of the universe, thank you for these plants your earth gives to us, and for all
blessings of life you shower upon us. In your goodness let the soil bring forth abundance
and renew the joy of all your children on earth.

There may be singing or creative activity

Reader

Leviticus 25:1-12 or Isaiah 24:1-13

THE EARTH BLESSING

*The leader invites those who have brought bags of earth to pour the earth from them in to an earthen
pot.*

The leader lays his/her hand on the earth:

Leader

Nurturing God, bless this soil, the soil on which we live, and work and make community. In

your mercy may it bring forth goodness to nourish and renew the whole community who shares it.

Reader You made the earth and through the long ages planted it with every kind of plant, and made animals to crawl and to run upon it, birds to fly over it, and fish to swim around it.

Groups with the necessary musical resources may play music that expresses the variety and abundance of this teeming life.

Leader When all was prepared, you formed humankind from the soil. You breathed your life into them.

May we never forget that we are mortal creatures; from earth we come, to earth we go. We did not make ourselves. Indeed, we and the earth itself need to be redeemed through the Saviour who restored unity between earth and heaven.

In the name of the One who came from heaven yet was born of earth, let us each bless the earth.

The leader invites each person, in a moment of recollection, to become tuned to their surroundings, to choose a spot or a living thing, and to lay a hand of blessing upon it, praying silently.

GOD'S WORD

Reader Matthew 21. 33-41 or Matthew 6: 25-30

There may be teaching or group work

INTERCESSION

Leader We offer you the earth and the vegetables that grow from it
All For all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

Leader We offer you the earth and the minerals that lie under it
All For all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

Leader We offer you the earth and the birds and beasts that move over it
All For all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

Leader We offer you ourselves who make our home upon it
All For all creation is yours and we want to be enriching it.

A song to accompany the prayers

For whistle the number represents the last hole covered (i.e. the furthest from the mouth place)

Guitar

0 G C G
For all cre - ation is yours
0 C Bm
and we want to be
0 C D G
enriching it, O Lord

Whistle (D̄whistle)

0
1 4 4 3 3 2 1
0 For all cre - ation is yours
1 2 3 4 1
0 = 4 = G (on a D whistle) and we want to be
1 2 1 2 3 4
enriching it, O Lord

There may be chanting of alleluias or other singing

Leader Bless to us O God
The earth that is beneath us
The sky that is above us
Your image deep within us
The life that lies before us.

There may be feasting and celebration

Samples from Volume 4 of The Celtic Prayer Book

Great Celtic Christians

Alternative Worship

from The Community of Aidan and Hilda

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Introduction

How this book may be used

The material in this volume may be used by:

- * Groups who organise an event around a saint or theme. Themes are listed on page ...
- * Churches who seek an alternative to one of their normal services.
- * Individuals who follow a daily pattern of prayer and wish to observe the great Celtic saints days. The material is arranged so that it can be used as morning, midday, evening and night prayer.

Why it will interest people from many ethnic and church backgrounds

In Britain there is a debate about tests of Britishness for those who apply to become citizens. In order to know the nation we are part of we need to know where it has come from, and the forces that have shaped it. This volume gives insight into one of the most positive shapings in the history of Britain and Ireland, one which provides a sound foundation for a multi ethnic society. The Celtic saints in this volume came from different races and lived in the fifth to seventh centuries after Christ. They lived in what we now call Britain and Ireland. Some welcomed visitors from other continents and others emigrated north, south and east.

Aidan Morning Prayer

There may be singing or music

Incense may be burned

Reader I saw the Lord in a vision, high and exalted, his royal robe filled the temple. Flaming creatures flew all around him. Each had six wings and they called to each other: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, whose glory fills the world.' Their sound made the very foundations shake, and the temple filled up with the smoke of incense. I said: 'I am doomed, because every word that passes my lips is tainted. And yet with my own eyes I have seen the High King, God almighty.' Then one of the creatures flew down to me, bearing a blazing coal. He touched my lips with it and said: Now your guilt is gone and your sin is forgiven'.

Then I heard the Lord say 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered: 'I will go. Send me.'
Isaiah 6:1-8

Storyteller That happened to the prophet Isaiah some six hundred years before Christ. About six hundred years after Christ something not all that different happened to a man on the island of Iona, on the north western shore of Britain, at a council of the community founded by the the great Columba.

Further south, the pagan Saxons had colonised the largest English kingdom, Northumbria. Oswald, who as a boy had sought refuge at Iona and become a devout Christian, pledged to God that if ever he got the back Northumbria's throne, which rightfully belonged to his family, he would invite Iona to send a mission to his people.

Oswald did regain the throne. Iona had sent a mission. The mission failed. 'Those Northumbrians are too rough to take to Christ's ways' reported Cormac, the leader of the aborted mission. 'Brother', said Aidan, 'perhaps you should have given them the milk before you gave them the meat of God's word, and perhaps you should have put yourself in their shoes rather than trying to force them into our mould.' That was how the community decided to send Aidan, and to consecrate him as a bishop. And Aidan, in the words of Isaiah long before, said 'Here am I, send me.'

Reader More years have passed. The world is thronged with mission fields of need.

I the Lord of land and sea or another song may be sung

1st Those who trust in God are like a mountain that lasts for ever.
for As the mountains surround Jerusalem so you surround your people from this time on and
evermore.

2nd The rule of wickedness shall not prevail in the land you give to the godly.
Do good, O God, to those who are good, to those who are right in their hearts.

1st Peace be upon the land
From Psalm 125

Storyteller So a band of twelve, Aidan at their head, set out by foot and boat on the journey to
Northumbria.

Leader We go forth into the unknown with God as our Helper.

All Your kingdom come

Leader We reach out in hope and walk in the strength of the mighty Three in One.

All Your kingdom come

Leader The Father who cares for us

The Saviour beside us

The Spirit who makes us strong

All Your kingdom come

Leader We go forward in light of sun, in strength of earth, in flowing of water

All Your kingdom come

Leader We go forth with the desert hermits and the holy martyrs

With blessed Columba and all the holy and risen ones

All Your kingdom come

Leader We go forth with the word of the apostles and the wisdom of the seers

With the angels above and the prayers of all God's people

All Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader Matthew 28:16-20

1st Aidan, what vision was in your heart on the long journey from western isle to eastern
doubt? shore? What bridge did you fear to cross? What weakness filled you with

A living flame is brought by Aidan

Aidan My friends, in Christ our strength is made complete in weakness. We came bearing the
torch of living flame. The light I bring is the light of Christ.

Aidan hands the living flame to another

All The light of Christ is among us

In the gentle touch

In the listening ear

In the patient toil

In the concern for the poor

In the challenging of wrong.

There may be singing, teaching or storytelling

INTERCESSION

Aidan We weep for the hungry without any bread
 The children who need to be fed
 We weep for mistreated ones strangers to love
 Those oppressed by force from above

All We cry out for peace in a world full of wars
 Heal all the ancient scars
 We plead for your justice to fill all the lands
 As the waters cover the sands

Aidan We pray against cruelty hatred and pain
 Ignorance, and greed for gain
 We pray for hostages, may they go free
 Forgive the sinners starting with me.
Andrew Dick

Leader God of Aidan of the gentle touch
All Give us the gift of gentleness

Leader God of Aidan of the generous heart
All Give us the gift of generosity

Leader God of Aidan of the ceaseless prayer
All Give us the gift of prayer

Leader God of Aidan of the friendly meeting
All Give us the gift of meeting

Leader God of Aidan of the burning faith
All Give us the gift of faith

Leader God of Aidan of simple dress
All Give us the gift of simplicity.

There may be free or silent prayer and singing

Leader From today and always may we
 Look upon each person we meet with the eyes of Christ
 Speak to each person we meet with the words of Christ
 And go wherever we are led with the peace of Christ.

Aidan May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow
 May the soft winds freshen your spirit
 May the sunshine brighten your heart
 May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
 And may God enfold you in love.

Kevin of Glendalough 3 June

Morning Prayer

Storyteller Kevin was born to a noble 6th century Irish family in Leinster. They say his mother did not experience labour pains. Perhaps that is why at his baptism Cronan the priest named him Coemgen, or Kevin, which means 'beautiful, shining birth.' 'For', said he, "this is the name God fashioned in heaven which shall always cling to this child." His mother took him to the Fort of the White Fountain and there the women fostered him. From the age of seven Kevin was schooled by monks until he was ordained. Then he withdrew to a place of solitude near the Upper Lake at Glendalough. They say that thirty years before Saint Patrick prophesied that one would come to this glen and build a great monastic city for the refreshment of residents and pilgrims. And so it came to be.

Reader Fair skinned and holy, athlete of Christ
Who in the valley of the two broad lakes
Made a home for God
Today we praise your God and ours
For the wonder of God's Presence with you and with us.

There may be singing

GOD'S WORD

Reader Psalm 23

All High borne eagles and nesting birds
Give ear to the friend of God
Speckled trout and mountain deer
Hear God's praises chanted.
Snarling wolf and savage boar
Lie down at sainted feet
Serpents of fear and fierce desire
Uncoil and concede defeat

Reader Isaiah 11:6-9

Leader We will journey into wild places with you
All With you we shall neither faint nor fear
Leader The wild creatures shall become God's friends
All With you we shall neither faint nor fear
Leader Their Creator also created me
All With you we shall neither fear nor faint
Leader Give glory to the God of heaven and earth
All Give glory to God who is in this place

Reader Mark 1:9-13

There may be teaching, creative activity or singing or storytelling as follows

STORYTELLING

Storyteller It seemed warm at the Fort of the White Fountain, however great the frost and snow outside. Cattle and wild animals came there to find grass, and a white cow would come whenever the babe fed at his mother's breasts. Kevin early learned about fasting, for during fast days he only sucked his mother's breasts once a day. Thus it was that, when he arrived at Glendalough and had only herbs and nuts and water of the forest for his food and drink, he was not diminished. His clothes were the skins of wild animals. His pillow was a stone, his bed a sheet of rock. Daily, and sometimes by night, he would stand in the lake up to his waist, chanting psalms and saying his prayers. Each day he would scramble up to a cave fifty feet above the lake for long vigils of prayer and the sacrament of Christ. This is known still today as Kevin's Bed.

There may be free prayer and singing

God bless the earth that is beneath us
The sky that is above us
The day that lies before us
Your image deep within us.

Hilda Evening Prayer

Leader Now let us praise the Maker of Heaven
The Crafter of the starry skies
The Keeper of Eternity.
Reader Now let us praise the Birther of Glory
The Guardian of the human race
Uncreated Beauty
Who binds the universe in one free bond of love

There may be singing.

Reader Psalm 100; 103; 145:1-13; 146; 148; 149 or 150.

Leader As a mother comforts her child
All So you take us in your loving arms.
Leader Be our refuge from the strife of tongues
All Inspire us by Hild's saintly life

Reader Proverbs 8 :1-16, Wisdom 6:12-20 or a reading about Hilda.

Leader As Hilda drew out the songs the cowherd dared not sing
All Bring to flower in your people the seeds that dormant lie

Leader We pray for those who have none to encourage them

All Bring the seeds of confidence in them to flower

Leader We pray for those who are trapped by their circumstances
All Bring the seeds of freedom in them to flower

Leader We pray for those who find it difficult to learn
All Bring the seeds of understanding in them to flower

Leader We pray for those at the bottom of the social pile
All Bring the seeds of empowerment in them to flower

Leader We pray for those who lack food or friendship
All Bring the seeds of abundant life in them to flower

Leader We pray for those who are weak or nearing the end of their earthly journey
All Bring the seeds of praise in them to flow.

Reader Philippians 4:4-9

There may be teaching, sharing, creative activity or singing

Leader You are the treasure I most desire
Heaven's beauty I long for more than all things
Your face Lord, will I seek

All We weave a silence into our movements
We weave a silence into our work
We weave a silence into our speaking
We weave a silence into our heart.

There may be silence, music or singing

Leader In the silence of our souls we bring to you
The disfigured and those who go unnoticed ...
Be the Comfort of their distress
All And the Companion of their way

Leader We pray for spiritual mothers and fathers
For wise and sound teachers
For enablers of unnoticed people
All May wisdom and truth bear fruit in their lives.

Leader We pray for a recovery of spiritual motherhood
We pray that you will raise up those who:
1st instil a confidence in Christ that energises and frees the other to leave childish
attachment and face the world with love
2nd through patience and sensitive listening allow healing to come
3rd enable creativity to be born and talent to blossom
4th kindle the desire for holy living

5th accept that we are incomplete and bear another's pain

6th embrace and reconcile those of clashing views

7th teach us to drink deeply from the wells of wisdom

8th model for us ordered lives, sustaining relationships and life-long learning

9th inspire in us the practice of reflection and the habit of praise

10th nurture a nation and shape it for God

Leader May the blessing of God and of Hild go with you

All Thanks be to God.

