



Celtic Evening Prayer

Opening prayer

In the name of the Maker
who lit the world
and breathed the breath of life for me.

In the name of the Son
who saved the world
and stretched out his hand to me.

In the name of the Spirit
who encompasses the world
and blesses my soul.

A trinity of love:
**God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;
the beginning, the end, the everlasting one.**

Prayer

The knees of the heart we bow
in the sight of the God who created us;
in the sight of the Son who died for us;
in the sight of the Spirit who helps us;
in friendship and affection.

**Through your own Son, O maker of all,
Grant us the fulness our lives long for.**

Love of God, love from God;
the smile of God, the grace of God;
the wisdom of God, the wonder of God;
the imagination of God, God's purpose in all things.

**Each shadow and light, each day and night;
each moment in kindness, give us your Spirit.
Amen.**

Canticle

**In the shadows of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.**

The Lord is my light, my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the refuge of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**In the shadow of Your wings
I shall sing Your praises, O Lord.**

One thing I ask of the Lord,
one thing I seek;
to dwell in the presence of my God,
to gaze on Your holy place.

**In the shadow of Your wings
I shall sing Your praises, O Lord.**

I believe I shall see the goodness
of the Lord in the land of the living.
O wait for the Lord!
Have courage and wait,
wait for the Lord.

**In the shadow of Your wings
I will sing Your praises, O Lord.**

The Word of God

O God of the weak,
O God of the lowly,
O God of the righteous,
O shield your people.
**We call upon you now to stretch our hearts
and enlarge our minds
through the word of your Son.**

Reading

Isaiah Chapter 42: verses 5 and 6

⁵ This is what God the Lord says –
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ 'I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you.....'

Reflection

followed by a period of silence

Prayers for others

Let us hold before God...

...the ones who laugh when we are funny,
and the ones who make us smile at ourselves. *(Pause to name them.)*

Lord, draw near.

Let us hold before God...

...the ones for whom we weep,
and the ones who, in joy or sorrow, weep for us. *(Pause to name them.)*

Lord, draw near.

Let us hold before God...

...the ones who worry that we may be lonely,
and the ones who make sure that that does not happen. *(Pause to name them.)*

Lord, draw near.

Let us hold before God...

...the ones who feed our minds and our bodies,
and the ones with whom we share faith and fellowship. *(Pause to name them.)*

Lord, draw near.

Let us hold before God...

...the ones who, tonight, we want to pray for,
and the ones who, unasked, tonight will pray for us. *(Pause to name them.)*

Lord, draw near.

Lord, draw near and hear our prayer.

Amen.

Prayers for ourselves

Lord, I lay my head to rest,
and in doing so,
lay at your feet
the faces I have seen,
the voices I have heard,
the words I have spoken,
the service I have given,
the joys I have shared,
the sorrows revealed,
I lay them at your feet,
and in doing so
lay my head to rest.

God, grant us your light this night,
your grace whilst we sleep,
and your joy in the morning.
Lift from us any anguish, and lighten our souls in the light of your love.
Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, Holy Spirit, Light of Life;
shield and sustain us and all our dear ones,
this night and in the nights to come.
Amen

Blessing

Bless to us, O God,
the moon that is above us,
the earth that is beneath us,
the friends who are around us,
the rest which is before us.

Amen.

*NOTE: Prayers used in this service draw on the following: material available at <https://iona.org.uk/> [accessed 3 June 2021]; J Philip Newell, *Celtic Treasury* (#canterbury Press, 2009); David Adam, *Tides and Seasons: Modern prayers in the Celtic tradition* (SPCK, 2010); https://www.faithandworship.com/Celtic_Blessings_and_Prayers.htm#gsc.tab=0 [accessed 17 June 2021]*