

## A Service of Morning Prayer During Epiphany



### WELCOME

### GATHERING

Leader: +In the name of God, the Creator, the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence,  
O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Leader: For the light-filled skies opening outwards, star upon star, expanse after expanse, thanks be to you,  
O God.

All: **For the mystery of your presence in and beyond all that can be seen, thanks be to you O God.  
Guide us further this day into the inner universe of our souls, ever opening inwards, light upon  
light, new depth upon new depth. Guide us through strange and fearful spaces towards the place  
of your eternal dwelling and assure us again that in drawing closer to you we draw closer to the  
heart of every living being, that in drawing closer to you we approach the heart of life. Amen.**

-John Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Leader: Wonderous God, you have brought us to this thin place where heaven and earth embrace.  
Here we bask in your peace and grace

All: **and open our hearts to your holy Word.**

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

### INTERCESSIONS

God of light and life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

**We pray for your Church, for our diocese, bishop, clergy, and all people...** *(petitions may be added)*

Radiant light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach, and nurture your disciples.

**We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith...**  
*(petitions may be added)*

Flame of abundant love, warm our hands to loving service.

**We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those for whom  
our prayers are especially desired ...** *(petitions may be added)*

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Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

**We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby...**

*(petitions may be added)*

Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation.

**We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us...**

*(petitions may be added)*

Eternal ray of hope, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask.

**Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

### **HYMN**

### **SOMETHING TO PONDER**

“The power of the stars is nothing compared to the energy of a person whose will has been freed . . . and who is thus enabled to co-create the cosmos together with God. God’s top priority is the creation of a world in which the goods of the earth are equitably distributed, where no one is forgotten or left out, and where no one can rest until everyone has enough to eat, the oppressed have been liberated, and justice and peace are the norm among the nations and religions of the world. Until then, even the joy of transforming union is incomplete. The commitment to the spiritual journey is not a commitment to pure joy, but to taking responsibility for the whole human family, its needs and destiny. We are not our own; we belong to everyone else.”

- Thomas Keating, *The Mystery of Christ: The Liturgy as Spiritual Experience* (Continuum: 1994), 104.