

Sunday, June 14 2020



Celtic Morning Prayer

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening sentences

One thing I have asked of the Lord,

this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

Call: Who is it that you seek?

Response: We seek the Lord our God.

Call: Do you seek Him with all your heart?

Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Call: Do you seek Him with all your soul?

Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Call: Do you seek Him with all your mind?

Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Call: Do you seek Him with all your strength?

Response: Amen. Christ, have mercy

Declaration of faith

To whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life,
and we have believed and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God.**

**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:35-10:8

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Reflection

When Jesus talks about the harvest being plentiful, we may ask ourselves – well – where is everyone then? Some interesting statistics from Tearfund suggest however that many in the UK are turning to prayer during the current COVID crisis. A third of UK adults have prayed since the beginning of the pandemic. Of those surveyed, 30 per cent of 18 – 34-year olds pray regularly, compared to 25 per cent of over 55s.

The research also covered those who watch or listen to religious services (for example, via online streaming). This was 24 per cent overall, or 76 per cent of those who regularly went to church before the pandemic. The proportion accessing services remotely was higher among 18 – 34-year olds (34 per cent) compared to those aged 55 or over (19 per cent). And one in 20 UK adults (5 per cent) who say they have watched or listened to a religious service since lockdown have never gone to church before.

It’s not surprising that the demographic for accessing services online is younger but it is impressive that these people are accessing services at all and it’s clear from this research that many are tuning in who wouldn’t normally. So no lack of interest then.

Of course, these people need discipling and that’s where we come in. Jesus gave authority to his disciples to share in his work. It’s reassuring to remember that this motley group was not selected for

their credentials: they were selected for what the Spirit of God would achieve through them. Despite their shortcomings, God used them to change the world. Likewise, let's not limit our perceptions of what

God may do through us by relying on our own strength of persuasion, intellects, and resources. Rather, let us invite God to do something in proportion to the Spirit's capacity to work through us.

It's also worth remembering when we look around at our congregation that Jesus worked with twelve others. Presumably, he could have chosen more but he kept the numbers small. We can certainly muster twelve, as Jesus did. Let's take some time over the coming week to consider how our time and talents are being used, and perhaps, what greater use we might make of them in God's service.

Christ is the Lord of the harvest. Let us pray that many may be raised up and sent forth, who will labour in bringing souls to Christ.

Prayers

We offer up our own prayers for:

The World

The Church

Our Community

The sick

The families of those who have died

Ending with the Lord's prayer:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
On Earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory,
Forever and ever.
Amen.**

Canticle

**Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.**

**This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.**

**Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.**

**This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.**

Christ as a light;

Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me on my left and my right.

Blessing

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.**

**May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.**

**May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.**

**May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen