



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND HOLY COMMUNION

AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, OREGON

March 16, 2025

## Holy Wandering

*Welcome to Trinity's Celtic service. As we prepare for worship, we keep a holy silence. (Please check that cell phones are turned off.) There are two times when you are invited to light a votive candle for whatever is on your heart this evening, either before the service begins or at the later designated time.*

“First find a path, and a little light to see by.  
Then push up your sleeves and start helping.” ~ Anne Lamott

### Prelude:

Welcome:

The Rev. Laura Sheridan-Campbell

### Opening Verses:

Every time you leave home another road takes you  
into a world you were never in.

You could not have known all you needed to illuminate your way.

When you travel, a new silence goes with you.

And if you listen, you will hear what your heart would love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing.

May you travel in an awakened way,

gathered wisely into your inner ground;

That you may not waste the invitations which wait along the way

To transform you.

~ Adapted from John O'Donohue: *To Bless the Space Between Us*

*Please stand.*

## Opening Hymn: Living God, for whom no door is closed

New Zealand Prayer Book

Jodi French



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Liv-ing God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us be-yond our doubts, be-yond our fears, till we see your Christ, and touch his wounds where they hurt, where they hurt in oth-ers.

## Prayer for the Evening:

Ever present God,

You call us on a journey to a place we do not know.

We are not where we started.

We have not reached our destination.

We are not sure where we are or who we are.

This is not a comfortable place.

Be among us we pray.

Calm our fears, save us from discouragement,  
and help us stay on course.

Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this  
unknown place continues as a journey of trust.

~ The Rev. Canon Kristi Philip, *Women's Uncommon Prayers*

*Please be seated.*

## A Gospel reading based on Mark 8:22-26

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look

like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again, and he looked intently, and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

**Reflection:**

**Peter McBennett**

*Two minutes of silence are observed after the Reflection.*

**Candle Lighting: You may light a candle for whatever is on your heart this evening.**

Pilgrim’s blessing

Jodi French

text: ancient Scottish blessing

God be with thee  
Jesus with thee  
Spirit with thee  
With thee

God be with thee in every pass  
Jesus with thee on every hill  
Spirit with thee on every stream  
Headland and woodland and lawn

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow  
Each lying down, each rising up  
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billow  
Each step of the journey thou goest

*Please stand.*

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others**

*Leader:* We pray that God will use us and our prayerful intentions in support of one another and for the healing of the world. Let us pray for those who need to be remembered tonight.

*Leader:* Let us pray for persons who differ from us, whom we try to avoid, or whom we meet in conversation, discovering they walk a path different from ours. Free us to see them and ourselves as beloved of You.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who have made news headlines today because of what they have done or said, or because they have been victims or causes of disaster or violence.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who cherish and struggle to heal our planet home and who implore us to join them.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who are unhoused, in hospitals, in prison, or in any place which is strange or frightening. Let us also pray for those who cannot find the care they need.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those in whose family, marriage, or close relationships there is stress or breakup.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who are waiting for a birth, or a death, or news which will affect their lives.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who believes in them.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those whose pain or potential we should not forget to share with God tonight. We cannot forget all persons and especially children, caught in the violence and terror of war.

***All:* God who travels with us, draw near.**

*Leader:* Holy One, we believe that you hear our prayers and will be faithful to your promise to draw near and answer.

***All:* God who travels with us, thank you.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* Circle us, O Blessed Three in One,  
with bonds of love that cannot be broken.  
The peace of God be always with you.

**All:** And also with you.

*You are welcome to move about, or stay in place, to greet each other with the "Peace".*

*Please be seated.*

*Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service. An alms basin is located on the table at the church entrance for your gifts in support of Celtic Worship.*

**Offertory:** He is the Way

arr. Jodi French  
music by David Hurd  
text by W.H. Auden

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;  
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.

Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;  
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.

Love Him in the World of the Flesh;  
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

*Please stand.*

## ***THE HOLY COMMUNION***

*Celebrant:* A reminder that ALL are welcome at this table.  
God be with you

**All:** And also with you

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts

**All:** We lift them up to God

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to God

**All:** It is right to give God thanks and praise

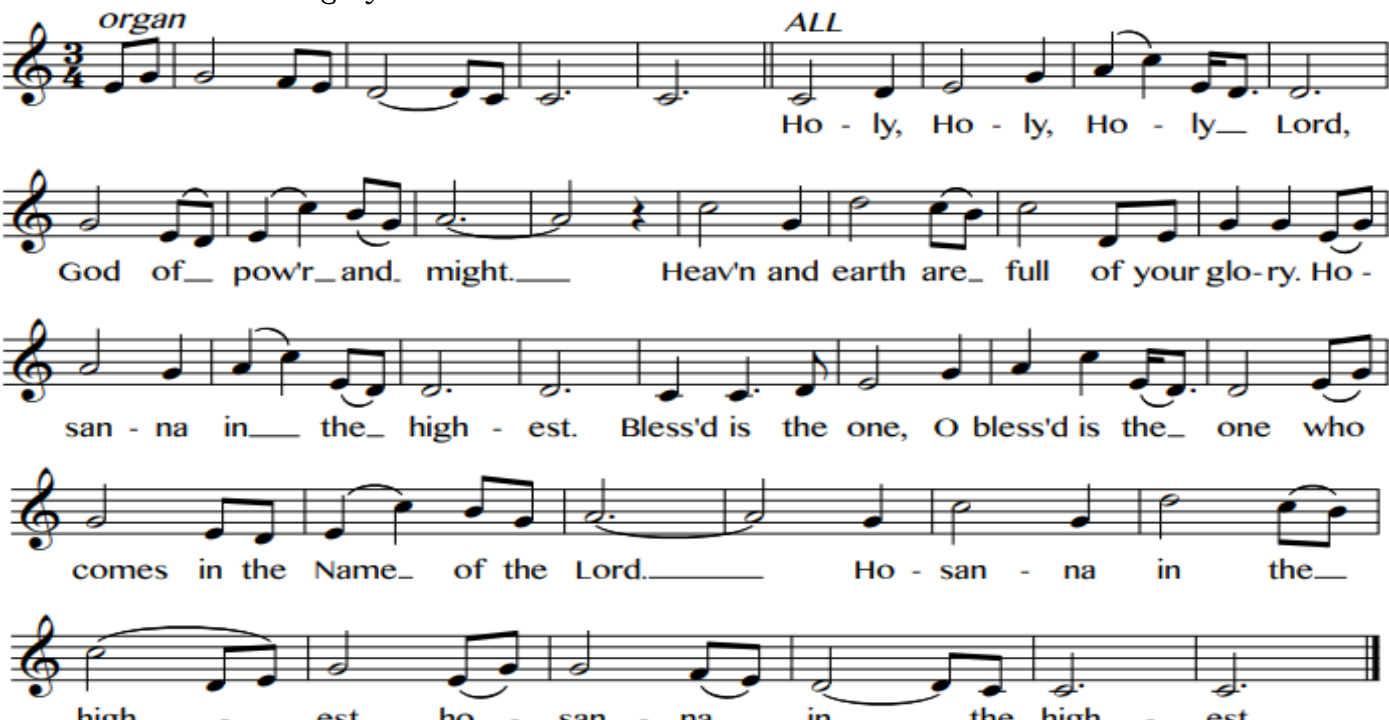
*Celebrant:* Before going out into the wilderness of the Garden,  
Jesus sat down to eat and drink with his friends.

To show them the challenge of the way ahead, and offer them gifts for that journey,  
he took bread – sustaining and wholesome – and poured wine – earthy and warming  
– sharing these as signs of his continuing presence with them throughout time to  
come. And now, remembering that moment, and recognizing that its promise is also  
for us in this time and place,

**All:** We too break bread and pour wine to share with one another.

*Celebrant:* And in this action we join our voices with those of all creation in the  
unending song of praise:

**Sanctus**      *Sung by all*      *James MacMillan*



*organ*      *ALL*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,  
God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless'd is the one, O bless'd is the one who  
comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, O God of all creation, your glory knows no bounds, and  
your Love is without end.

**All:** Here we gather to share your grace and celebrate your love.

*Celebrant:* God of the liminal places, send down upon us now,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine, that same Spirit who drove Jesus into the  
desert, that we too may be tempered and strengthened by your Presence and  
refreshed and renewed through your love.

*Celebrant:* As Jesus taught us we now pray...

**The Lord's Prayer:**

***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 testing, 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 forever.

Amen.           ~ *New Zealand Prayer Book*

**The Breaking of the Bread**           *A period of silence is kept.*

**Invitation to Eucharist:**

*Celebrant:* Like a tent in the wilderness, the table of God stands open and ready as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing.

So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished; come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;

For here, Jesus, who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places, waits to meet us and welcome us in, offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

A reminder that **ALL** are welcome at God's table.


*Please remain seated until it is your turn to come to the altar.*

*All are welcome at God's table! Please follow the row in front of you to come forward. You may choose to receive both the bread and the wine or the bread only. To receive bread, simply hold out your hands, or for Gluten free wafers cover one hand over the other. Wine will be offered by sipping from the Cup only. If you wish to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and communion will be brought to you.*

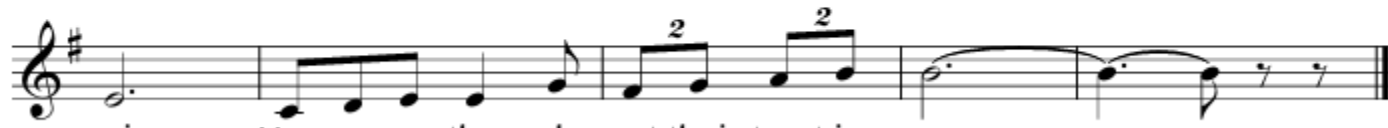
Communion Music

Psalm 84

Jodi French



Those who go through the des-o-late val-ley shall find it a place of



springs. Hap-py are they who put their trust in you.

Psalm 46

Jodi French

*ANTIPHON*



There is a riv - er, there is a riv - er whose



streams make glad the cit - y of God.




God is in the midst of her; she




shall not be o - ver - thrown.

Psalm 27


Jodi French




I be - lieve I shall see



all your good in the land of the liv - ing.



I be - lieve I shall see all your



good in the land of the liv - ing.



**Prayer after Communion**                      *Please stand.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**All:** For all who are hungry.

All who are lost and searching.

All who are in darkness this day.

All who are still afraid.

All who feel they are not worthy.

May they somehow find their way  
to the feast.

And may we who are nourished  
by this sacred feast

be food for the hungry

and a bridge back to you.    ~ *Communion Song, Christine Rodgers*

**Blessing**

*Celebrant:* May the peace of God go with you, wherever He may send you.

May She guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May They bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders they have shown you;

May they bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.

May God bless you and keep you this night and always.

**All:**                      **Amen.**

## Send out your Light

Jodi French

Send out your light, send out your light, send out your  
light and your truth, that they may lead me. Send out your  
light; your light and truth will bring me to your  
ho - ly hill, and to your dwell - ing.

### The Sending:

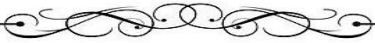
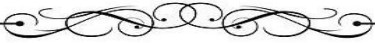
Let God's hope be a clearing sky before you,  
A compass in your heart,  
Guiding you to where you belong

**All:** Thanks be to God

*Please take your seat for closing music.*

### Postlude

*Thank you for being here. As the lights come up and you are ready, please leave quietly.*

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.....  
*We look forward to seeing you at the next Celtic service April 27, 2025.*  
  
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The Reverend Laura Sheridan-Campbell *Celebrant*  
Peter McBennett, *Reflector*  
Phyllis Fernlund, Carol Harvey, Jack Seybold, *Greeters*  
Nancy Linton, Mary Twomey, Mark Koerner, *Readers*  
James Johnson, *Videographer*  
Ken Hearnberger Sarah Seybold, *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Eileen Piker, Ward Wilson, *Celtic Altar Guild*  
Jack Seybold, *Sender*  
Jodi French, *Composer of Music and Pianist*  
Jen Matsuura, Shelly Cox-Thornhill, *Cantors*  
Kathleen Paige, *Harpist*  
Merrill Hearnberger, *Music Hospitality*

The Rev. Jan Holland, Carol Harvey, Nancy Linton, The Rev. Mary Piper,  
*Coordinating Team and Text selections*

The Celtic Team

*The Rev. Jan Holland, Carol Harvey, Eileen Piker, Merrill Hearnberger,  
The Rev. Mary Piper, Ken Hearnberger, Nancy Linton, James Johnson, Ward Wilson,  
Phyllis Fernlund, Sarah Seybold, Jack Seybold  
Phyllis Reynolds, Member Emerita  
Emily Cox and Chris Hope in Memoriam*

This service of Celtic Evensong and Holy Communion, in the tradition of St. Columba, is adapted from a service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, which they have so graciously shared with us. The service is also based on prayers, blessings and liturgies from The Episcopal Church of the United States, The New Zealand Prayer Book, and the monastic communities of Iona and Northumbria, United Kingdom.

March 16, 2025: Holy Wandering

March this year includes the Spring Equinox 3/20 and Lent.

March is the second month within the Celtic season of Imbolc [imm' ulk], the Spring quarter of the Celtic year. It is a time of lengthening light with the Spring Equinox (March 20), opening buds and warming ground, a time of renewal in heart and mind as well as earth. In the Christian calendar, in 2025, March is entirely devoted to the holy wandering and searching of Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter in April.

# Trinity Episcopal Church

The Reverend Daniel Green, Rector

## OUR MISSION

To proclaim by word, sacrament, and example the good news of God in Jesus Christ;  
To seek and serve Christ in all persons;  
To strive for justice, peace, reconciliation and the healing of the world;  
To care for one another and stranger alike.

## OUR CORE VALUES

Openness, Compassion, Generosity, Hospitality, Reverence

## OUR VISION

To grow together in a shared life  
where we feel and express God's ever-present love,  
to recognize grace in all creation, and  
to hear and heed God's call.

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Trinitychurchashland.org

Thank you for joining us this evening Please know that your presence is a blessing. All are invited to support the Celtic Evensong ministry.

You can make your gift by placing your donation in the alms basin located in the entry way of the church, online at [Trinitychurchashland.org](http://Trinitychurchashland.org) or by scanning the QR code here.

