

CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

TIDES AND SEASONS



LOW TIDE

OPENING PRAYERS

The earth is the Lord's
And everything in it.

Let all the people give God praise
And all Creation bless God's name.

God of the longest days,
May my life be a long day for you;
Always reflecting your light.

Open, awake.

Amen.

**You are the Maker of earth and sky,
You are the Maker of heaven on high.
You are the Maker of oceans deep,
You are the Maker of mountains steep.
You are the Maker of sun and rain,
You are the Maker of hill and plain.
You are the Maker of such as me.**

Keep me, O Lord, eternally.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 21 : 1-14

Afterwards, Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.



Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

LOW TIDE

The Celts saw the tides and seasons as mirroring their lives and this was reflected in many of their prayers. Many of our prayers over the last few months have reflected a period of ebb as the lockdown stretched out ahead of us. Finally, change is in sight, as restrictions are beginning to ease. This will come as a great relief to many, who may have reached their lowest ebb and who long and pray for the incoming tide.

The low tide is the winter of our lives; it is a time of bareness and death. Yet it is also a time of strange beauty, a time of purity – and purifying. In winter, we see things that we have never seen before. Our vision on clear days seems lengthened – we can see past the trees because their foliage is gone. On the shore, low tide can be a very interesting time. We discover creatures from the deep, left by the tide, we visit rocky pools or ponder over strange fossils in the rocks. On some beaches, the shore seems to stretch for miles – as far as the eye can see.

Throughout our life, we will experience the ebbing of full tides, of joyous times and despair and hopelessness when we reach our lowest point.

So it was for the disciples: they had toiled all night and caught nothing. They had travelled for 3 years with Jesus, expecting a new occupation. Here they were, back fishing, back in the dark. Not only the nets, but their lives seemed empty. Then the dawn comes. Jesus is standing on the shore. The dawn has a habit of coming suddenly. Jesus stands on the shore waiting for us to come to Him, gently beckoning to us. He calls us through our darkness and frustrations. The low tide reveals the shore – and Jesus standing there. The disciples enter a new day, new life and new opportunities with their Lord.

REFLECTION

Even when the tide has ebbed, Jesus can be found on the shore. When resources are low, renewal is still being offered to us. Somewhere within our darkness, a bright dawn seeks to break. Are we able to open our eyes and our minds to the Presence? He is there, where the water meets the land, where the land meets the skies, where the darkness is turning to light, where the temporal is becoming eternal.



He is there at each meeting place, on every shore of this world – and the shore of eternity. Even now, he waits for you to recognise him. He waits for you to turn to Him. He waits for the darkness to clear and the mists to lift. He bids us come. Be refreshed. Be renewed. Be restored.

Lord, open my eyes that I may see your Presence, now and eternally.

PRAYERS

Sea Tides

Let the love tide swelling
surround me and my dwelling.
Let the power of the mighty sea
flow in, Lord, and strengthen me.
Tide of Christ, covering my shore,
that I should live for evermore.

Whatever the tide,
the Lord at my side;
in storm or in calm,
to keep me from harm.
In good or in ill,
He's with me still.
Amen.



PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

Heavenly Father, in the stillness, we are with you to place into your hands our fragile world in need.

For the beauty of Creation, we thank you. We thank you especially for the oceans and the seas and the life within.

Forgive us for polluting the waters of the earth.

*Forgive us the countless tons of plastic that choke the oceans and kill sea life.
Forgive us the mountains of our waste in the waterways of the poorest countries.*

Sustain and further the efforts of all who seek to bring in legislation to protect our planet. May they not be thwarted by those whose only concern is money.

*Lord of the tides, **Hear our prayer.***

We remember those who live their whole lives at low tide and who cannot ever imagine it turning.

We pray for people throughout the world, whose daily companions are disease, drought, famine, conflict and death.

Even at low tide, we are greatly blessed and we pray the waters of change for our brothers and sisters less fortunate. May they be blessed through our giving and our prayers

*Lord of the tides, **Hear our prayer.***

As holidaymakers return to the beaches, bless the work of the lifeguards, the lifeboats, the coastguard and the air search and rescue teams. We pray for their safety, as they work to ensure the safety of others.

*Lord, of the tides, **Hear our prayer.***

As we look to the turning of the tide of lockdown, we pray for the wisdom of all who are making decisions affecting the wellbeing of others. We pray for all NHS staff, that their safety will not be compromised by this changing situation.

*Lord of the tides, **Hear our prayer.***

For all those suffering a low tide of illness, whether physical, mental or spiritual, we pray. We hold before you now those we carry on our hearts today

For all who have reached the peace of your eternal shore and for those left behind to mourn, we pray.

*Lord of the tides, **Hear our prayer.***

Lord of all,

As the salt water heals, may your love flood this broken world through the channels of our words, actions and prayers.

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.***



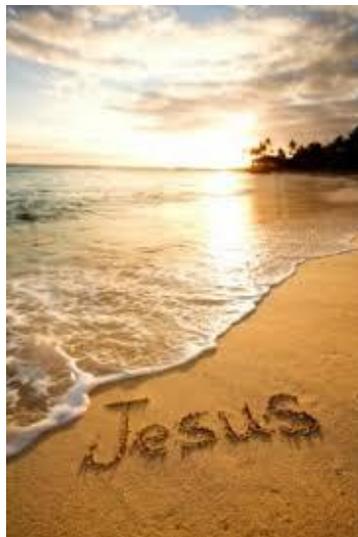
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Your Tide

It is your tide that pulls me, Lord;
draw me to yourself.
When one tide ebbs, another flows.
Lord of life: when the tides wane,
grant me a hand till I rise again.
When the sand is becoming wide,
keep me safe at the low tide
Amen.

BLESSING

God's own Presence with us stay,
Jesus to shield us in the fray.
Spirit to protect us from all ill,
Trinity there, guiding us still.
On sea or land, in ebb or flow,
God be with us wherever we go.
In flow or ebb, on land or sea,
God's might our protecting be.
**And until we meet again,
may God hold us in the palm of his hand.
Amen.**



Resources : 'Tides and Seasons' by David Adam
Words in italics : Linda Garthwaite