

CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

TIDES AND SEASONS



EBB TIDE



In the name of the Creator of light;
In the name of the Christ of the Cross;
In the name of the Spirit of the well-springs;
In the name of the Three-in-One.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of the tides, give to me
Space for stillness
Room for repentance
Place for prayer
Home for happiness
Ways to walk in
Paths with purpose

Creator of the seasons, give to me
Minutes of meditation
Hours of holiness
Days of discipline
Weeks of worship
Years for you
Life for love
Eons of eternity
Amen

'Help in Trouble'

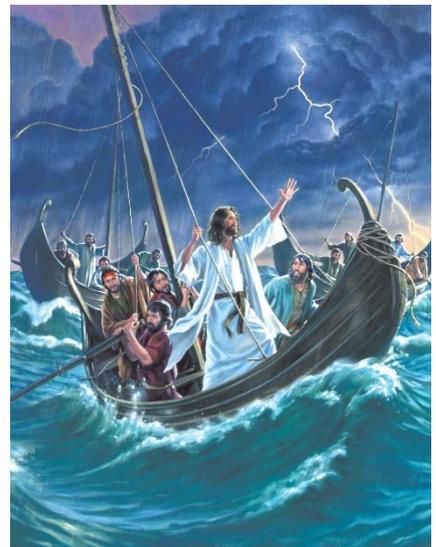
**Lord, you are a present help in trouble:
come revive, redeem, restore.
In our darkness, come as light,
in our troubles, come as peace,
in our weakness, come as strength.
Come, Lord, to our aid:
revive, redeem, restore.
Open our eyes to your grace,
open our lips to your praises,
open our hearts to your love,
open our lives to your healing
and be found among us.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 8 : 23-27

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and waves obey him!"



Romans 8 : 37-39

No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EBB TIDE

There is hardly a time like the ebb tide for the questioning of life and the feeling that it is quite meaningless. It is a time that is for most, quite frightening and threatening. A time when we feel alone and often misunderstood. It is partly because most people are afraid to admit that their life ebbs in any way : we all so badly want to be seen as succeeding and being fulfilled. Yet the truth is, we all must experience ebb tides if we are to know the flow. How we deal with them will depend on our relationship with God.

Since the onset of this pandemic, bringing lockdown and fear in its wake, many will have experienced a sense of life ebbing. Movement and meeting restrictions may have engendered feelings of isolation and frustration, worsening with the passing weeks, as normal life has ebbed further and further from the shore of normality.

For the Christian, hard though this time is, we still have glory inside us, we still have Someone to guide us, we still have a love that is known. Even if in this tide, awareness ebbs, the reality remains. The Presence is not dependent on our feelings or on our ability. God is in the ebb as much as in the flow. We learn of our frailty – ‘the sea is so large and our boat is so small’. But it can awaken our God within us. A time when we learn that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that all who believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’



REFLECTION

This is certainly a time that will put our faith to the test, whatever we have built on. But it is also a time of new opportunities, for it is a time of change. We need to make ourselves aware of what is being revealed on the shore. Our way of life may of necessity change, but we carry within ourselves many riches. Just as the ebb deposits the seaweed on the beaches, which it has brought up from the depths, even so out of our deeps, new things can be revealed.

Let's spend some moments in 'spiritual beachcombing', reflecting on the unexpected treasures God has revealed during this time of ebb.

If we have lived in awareness of God, we may, even at this time, be able to speak boldly, aware that the tide flows elsewhere and that once again, it will come flooding in our main.



PRAYERS

'Until the Tide Turns'

**Lord, I wait for the tide to turn –
until the outside is within,
until the ebb flows.**

**Lord, I wait for the tide to turn –
until weakness is made strong,
until blindness turns to sight,
until the ebb flows.**

**Lord, I wait until the tide turns –
until the ordinary becomes strange,
until the empty is Presence-full,
until the two become one.
Until the ebb flows.**

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD



Living God, we praise you for all that is good and precious in human life; the value, the potential and the uniqueness of every individual.

*We pray for those whose humanity is diminished by prejudice and discrimination, who face daily intimidation, hatred and suspicion. We pray healing for the deep divisions throughout the world caused by racial inequality. Grant that the day will come, when the worth of all will be recognised, the rights of all respected and the good of all pursued. **Lord, in your mercy ... Hear our prayer.***

*Loving Lord, there is so much despair in our world and for many there seems little reason to hope that the tide will turn. Reach out, we pray, to all whose belief in the future has been destroyed. Bring assurance that even in the darkest moments and the greatest challenges, you are with them, working your purpose out. **Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.***

*We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who, like, us, are suffering from this pandemic, but also from other, more deadly diseases, from famine and conflict. We continue to remember the poorest in the world and pray for a sharing of resources, and end to exploitation and oppression. **Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.***

*As shops and attractions begin to open, we pray wisdom for the decision makers and safety for the public. We pray especially for the churches as they begin to welcome people back into the buildings and we pray for the continuing mission of our Benefice here in Mount's Bay. **Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.***

*We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and in a moment of silence, we remember before you those we carry on our hearts today
We pray eternal rest for those who have died and the comfort of your presence for those who mourn. **Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.***

*Living Lord, raise up your broken ones, heal your suffering ones and inspire your joyful ones. Take the prayers we offer and grant us the grace to accept that they are heard and answered by a God who knows our incompleteness and is working to make us whole. **In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

'Ebb and Flow'

From the flowing of the tide
to its ebbing.

From the waxing of life,
to its waning.

Of your Peace provide us,
of your Light lead us,
of your Goodness give us,
of your Grace grant us,
of your Power protect us,
of your Love lift us
and into your Arms accept us.

From the ebbing of the tide
to its flowing.

From the waning of life
to its waxing.

Amen.



Resources : 'Tides and Seasons' by David Adam

Words in italics : Linda Garthwaite