

CELTIC EVENING PRAYER
TIDES AND SEASONS



INCOMING TIDE

OPENING PRAYERS

In the silence of the stars,
in the quiet of the hills,
in the heaving of the sea:
Speak, Lord

In the stillness of this place,
in the calming of our minds,
in the longing of our hearts:
Speak, Lord

In the voice of a friend,
in the chatter of a child,
in the words of a stranger:
Speak, Lord for we are listening.
Amen.

COME, LORD

**O Lord,
give us Yourself above all things.**
Come, Lord, that we may share the gifts of Your Presence.
Come, Lord, with healing of the past.
Come and calm our memories.
Come with joy for the present:
come and give life to our existence,
come with hopes for the future,
come and give a sense of eternity,
come with strength for our wills,
come with power for our thoughts,
come with love for our hearts.
**Come, Lord, give Yourself above all things
and help us to give ourselves to you.**
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Our readings today speak of change, of renewal. Jesus speaks of how we are transformed by his Holy Spirit – ‘born again’ into the life God intended humans to live. St Paul describes how the Lord’s Spirit within us, transforms us into the likeness of Christ – from ‘glory into glory’. The power of the Holy Spirit is a free gift, but we have to open ourselves and allow God’s Spirit to wash into us and fill us. It is these encounters with God that change us. We have to desire them, seek and invite them.



John 3 : 3-6

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

2 Corinthians 3 : 17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

INCOMING TIDE

We all experience the incoming tide. We left a world of darkness behind when we arrived on the shore of this world. Our birth was an incoming. Throughout our lives, we will again and again be offered new experiences, new chances for change and renewal. At all times, there will be the coming of the great Other to us; God is ever coming into our lives. We must ensure our life is open to God’s inflow. It’s interesting to know that the midwife on the Hebridean islands liked the child to be born, if possible, on an incoming tide. As soon as possible, the child would be dipped in the incoming tide, expressing the simple desire that his or her life would freely flow. Let us learn not only to become more aware of what comes to us, but to rejoice in it. To know that each day, God comes and God seeks to make all things new.



REFLECTION

As children, we would holiday on the North Cornish coast, spending the whole day constructing a dam across the expanse of Treyarnon or Porthcothan sands – and then waiting expectantly for the incoming tide. As the water licked our sand wall, we would run up and down its length, shoring up the breaches and maintaining its integrity for as long possible. Of course, in the end, the tide always washed away our labours!

Let's spend some time reflecting on what might be standing in the way of our relationship with God – what barriers we might be constructing, which prevent the free flow of the Holy Spirit through our lives. Are we shoring up walls of unforgiveness, anger or pride?

Let's also reflect with thankfulness on the difference God has made in our lives – how we have already been changed by God's presence and let's pray for the continuing renewal and transformation of the Holy Spirit.

A prayer to help us :

God of love,

we open our hearts, our minds, our souls – our very being to You.

Flow into us like the incoming tide.

Knock down all that stands in the way of our relationship with You.

Wash away our doubts and the wrongs written on our hearts – just as the tide erases messages and castles in the sand.

Flood us with your love and light and transform us into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that in perfect unity, we may live eternally in You and You in us.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD



***Lord of sea and sky,
You hear your people cry.***

Hear us now as we bring in prayer a world in so much need.

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

Lord, turn the tide of hardened hearts that wield political and economic power.

The hearts of those who perpetuate and profit from war and injustice.

Turn hearts to see in everyone a child created and loved by you. We pray an end to oppression, to exploitation, to discrimination and to racism. Give hope to all who are downtrodden, to all who despair of ever experiencing freedom or equality.

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

We pray for the people of Yemen, facing starvation – without food, without medical supplies and without hope. As millions are dying from malnutrition and millions from obesity, teach us to share our resources, to live simply, that others may simply live.

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for our families, our homes, our communities, as we remember the millions of our brothers and sisters living as refugees. We pray for the Rohingya people, forced to flee their homeland and settle in Bangladesh in the largest refugee camp in the world. Without proper sanitation, Covid is spreading rapidly. We pray especially for the children, many of whom were orphaned in the genocide. Bless the donations of time and money made by ordinary people, who feel helpless, but who want desperately to help. Bless the work of the aid agencies and may aid go directly to the people who need it and not be lost in bureaucracy or corruption.

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

As restrictions begin to ease and the county opens again to visitors, we pray that people will be mindful of the safety of others, show consideration for the communities in which they choose to holiday and care for the environment. Bless the opening of churches that all may remain safe within their walls. We pray especially for our churches here in Mount's Bay: may they once again be havens of comfort and peace for all who enter.

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

We continue to pray for the health and safety of all who risk it for the well-being of others : all NHS staff, the emergency services, carers, lifeguards and all those we carry on our hearts today

Lord of sea and sky Hear our prayer

Be an incoming tide of love, Lord, washing over those who are ill. Enfold them and give them and those who care for them a real sense of your Presence. We pray especially today for

For those who have reached the peace of your eternal shore and for those who mourn them, Lord, we pray.

Lord of sea and sky ...Hear our prayer

Loving God, let your Living Water flow into us and through us as we offer ourselves to be channels of your peace and healing.

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



THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

**God, who our life sanctified,
Jesus Christ, who death defied,
Spirit, ever at our side:
from inflowing to ebb tide,
from ebbing to inflowing tide,
ever with us abide.**

**And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us and those we love and pray for, today and always.**

Amen.



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