

As Winter Wanes and Spring Swells

A Celtic Candlelight Worship Experience in Celebration of St. Brigid

5:00 p.m. + February 11, 2017

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow, Massachusetts

Welcome! Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we are glad you are here. Please turn off or silence cell phones to assist us as community at prayer.

This evening's worship is based on a variety of sources from the British Isles, including the Northumbria Community and the Iona Community. Additional Celtic services will be offered every second Saturday of the month. The next one will be celebrated on March 11.

We invite guests to fill out the Connection Card in the pew rack and place it either in the offering plate as it comes by during the Offertory, or in a basket upon leaving the church.

The Gathering

Soft, meditative music invites us to quiet our busy minds and be enveloped by peace and stillness.

Centering

*We begin worship by centering in God, our life source. After a chime sounds three times to invite us into the presence of the triune God, all are invited to spend a few moments in silent reflection. After the chime sounds another three times consecutively, **please stand as you are able.***

♪ **Opening Hymn – I Bind Unto Myself Today (St. Patrick's Breastplate)**

Please turn to #370 in Blue Hard Cover Hymnal. We will sing verses 1-4.

P = Presider L = Leader C = Congregation

Worship leaders gather at the well – many wells and springs in Ireland are named after Brigid.

L: In the lengthening of days, snowdrops emerging from winter's frozen ground;

C: The Creator wakes the earth.

L: In the thawing of water, flowing freely from winter's stillness.

C: The Creator wakes the earth.

Water is poured into the Baptismal Font and blessed by these words and the Presider walking around the font three times. Three candles are lit in the name of the Trinity.

P: We thank you, O God, for the gift of water. The firm earth emerged from the waters of life and you saw that it was good. Your Spirit who descended upon Jesus at his baptism in a river, continues to be with us in our baptismal waters. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, a ainm an Athar, agus a Mhic, agus an Spioraid Naoimhin (translation: the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit) that we may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, the Wellspring of new and unending life. **All: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us; the Beginning, the End, the Everlasting One. Amen.**

Music Meditation - Ode to Brigid

Rosemary Caine will play the harp and offer this traditional anthem in Irish Gaelic.

A Prayer for Light

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** P: Let us pray. O God, by whose grace your servant Brigid, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Poem - "A Sleeping World Emerges"

Psalm 36:5-10

When noted, please use the Gaelic refrain.

Buíochas le Dia Pronunciation: B-wee-oh-khas leh Jee-ah

Translation: Thanks to God.

5	Your steadfast love, O Lord, ex'tends · to the ' heavens: your ' faithful·ness ' up · to the ' clouds.
6	Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your judgments are like the ' great ' deep: you Lord ' save both ' people · and ' beasts. All: Buíochas le Dia.
7	How precious is your steadfast ' love O ' God: mortals take refuge in the ' shadow ' of your ' wings.
8	They feast on the rich abundance ' of your ' house: you give them drink from the ' stream of ' your de'lights. All: Buíochas le Dia.
9	For with you is the ' well of ' life: and in your ' light ' we see ' light.
10	Continue your loving kindness to ' those who ' know you: and your justice ' to the ' true of ' heart. All: Buíochas le Dia.

Please see next page.

♪ We Sing a Song of Brigid – **Please stand as you are able and sing after the Cantor sings the chorus one time through.**

We Sing a Song to Brigid

Words: Clare Maloney

Music: Patricia Hegarty

Chorus: D Am D Am D Am D

We sing a song to Bri-gid, Brig-id brings the spring. A -

G A Bm C D C D

wa-kens all the fields and the flowers and calls the birds to sing.

D Am D Am D Am D

1 All were wel-come at her door, no one was turned a-way. She

G A Bm C D C D

1 loved the poor, the sick and the sore, she helped them on their way.

D Am D Am D Am D

2 She laid her cloak out on the ground and watched it grow and grow, In

G A Bm C D C D

2 wells and streams and fields of green St. Bri-gid's bless-ings flow.

The Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, Lord Christ.** P:

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-- you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed

your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection *Silence to follow.*

Intercessory Prayer – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

L: For the cycle of life / Which brings death and rebirth **C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

L: For lengthening days / And sunlight's warmth upon the soil

C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring

L: For a snowdrop's beauty / Reflecting its Creator's artistry

C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring

L: For new born lambs / Their joy and exuberance **C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

L: For all of creation / And the majesty of its Creator **C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

L: For all who suffer / Yearning for hope **C: We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

All are invited to come forward to light a votive for your own needs, the needs of others, and the needs of the world. You are welcome to be seated upon returning to your seat.

The prayer period concludes by all praying the following prayer.

P: Let us pray. **ALL: My Christ. My Christ. My shield, my encircler, each day, each night, each light, each dark. Be near me, my treasure, my triumph. Amen.**

Confession and Words of Grace – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

P: Let confess our sins to God and our neighbor. Silence is kept. **All: Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share, and may our feet tread lightly on the road ahead.**

P: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

ALL: Amen.

The Peace

P: God makes peace within us. **C: Let us claim it.** P: God makes peace between us. **C: Let us share it.** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.** *The peace is exchanged with your neighbors as you say "peace" and shake hands.*

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

We are now invited to give back to God what God has given us. An usher will pass an offering plate pew by pew. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as it passes by. The gifts of bread and wine are prepared for the celebration of Holy Communion.

After the offering is presented, the Presider says,

Receive, O God our Creator, the offerings which we make to you of what you have given us from your creation, so that by the power of your grace these holy mysteries may sanctify our present life and bring us to everlasting joy. **ALL: Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving – Please stand as you are able.

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.** P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, who is Creator of all life. Though our days vanish like mist, and the light of the earth fades away in the distance, still your Spirit is within all life, and every human being is born in your likeness. And so with the whole created order, with the stars that silently glisten with life's glory, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that whispers, with the chirping praise of birds and the echo of the saints, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

**ALL: Holy most holy, all holy the Lord in power and wisdom, for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love.
Our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessed, most blessed, all blessed is he whose life makes us whole,
And whose death sets us free,
Who comes in the name of the Father of light.
Let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Tune: Slane

P: Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought forth bread from the earth. Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that all life may be nourished by your goodness. You gave to your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness. You gave Mary and Jesus their daily bread to share. And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us, your beloved children.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he shared it with his disciples, saying, "Drink this all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." We proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God, whose generosity is unbounded and who wills that we should lack no good thing, bless this bread and this wine with your Holy Spirit. Meet us here Holy One,

Move among us Spirit of life.
Meet us here, as we remember.
Meet us here:
Transformed and transforming,
Broken and whole, given and giving.
Meet us here, that we might receive.
Meet us here, nourished afresh by these holy gifts, that
We might live in you, as agents of change in your world.
Here lie new hope, new life, re-birth.
Here are the endless possibilities of the wakening earth.
May we respond like seeds, dying to live,
Plunging down into fertile ground and reaching upwards to the light,
Awakened by the Spirit's breath,
To grow, to glory, to dance,

And to praise Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **ALL: AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

After a period of silence is kept, the Presider says,

Wheat whose crushing was for the bread of life, fruit whose crushing was for the drink of unending abundance, signs of Christ's glorious rising; **C: Be known to us, O Jesus, in the breaking of bread and in the pouring of the vine's sweet fruit.**

The Invitation

P: This is the table not of the Church but of the Lord. It is to be made ready for those who love him, and who want to love him more.

ALL: So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a very long time, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

P: Come, not because it is I who invites you: it is our Lord. It is God's will for you to meet God here.

About Receiving Communion

*All who seek the presence of God through Holy Communion are welcome to receive. Some consume the bread and the wine separately, others intinct (dip) the bread in the wine. Please do whatever is comfortable for you. **Gluten free wafers are available – please request one from the Presider.** If you prefer to be blessed instead of receiving Communion, please cross your arms in the form of an "X" over your chest. Children are welcome to receive at their parents' discretion.*

AFTER YOU RECEIVE COMMUNION AND BEFORE RETURNING TO YOUR SEAT, PLEASE TAKE A CANDLE FROM THE BASKET AND LIGHT IT. AN ACOLYTE WILL ASSIST YOU.

The Prayer after Communion – Please kneel or stand as you are able.

P: Let us pray. **ALL:** Lord, may we be wakeful at sunrise to begin a new day for you, cheerful at sunset for having done our work for you; thankful at moonrise and under starshine for the beauty of your universe; and may we, who have feasted on his presence, be the bread of life and cup of blessing for the world you love. Amen.

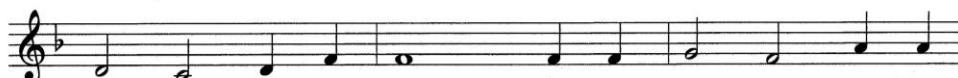
The Blessing

P: Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the thawing earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the Son of peace to you and the blessing of the Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you and those you love forevermore. **ALL: Amen.**

♪ Closing Hymn *As a Fire* – All sing.



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



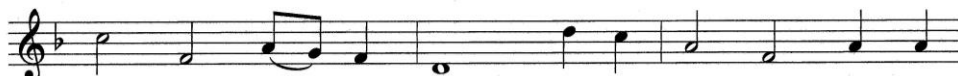
bright and warm - ing flame, So the Church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



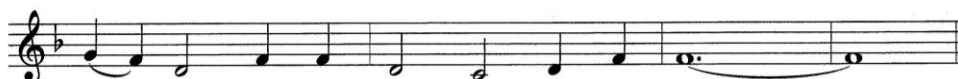
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name. As we
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay. By our
one - ness Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hued. As a



wit - ness to the gos - pel, We would
gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, Join - ing hands a - cross the
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Dismissal

P: Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst, **C: But we will carry the light in our hearts, and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.**

Please extinguish your candle at this point and keep it upright to avoid the wax from dripping. Please return the candle in the foil trays upon leaving the church.

P: Let us bless the Lord, our light, our hope, our encircler, the Holy Three in One. Alleluia. Alleluia. **C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Worship Leaders

Sue Riley, Accompanist (Director of Music Ministry at St. Andrew's)

Karen Gladwin, Cantor

Rosemary Caine, Harpist

Linda Cardillo Platzler and Carol Howland, Eucharistic Ministers

Grace Kimball and Jenny Lewis, Acolytes

Pat Loftus, Rob Morgan, Casey Thomas, and Cooper Thomas, Ushers

The Rev. Derrick Fetz, Presider

The Rev. Charles Summers, Assisting Minister

Acknowledgements

The prayers and music appearing in this worship guide were taken (some modified) from sources including *A Celtic Primer*, *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from The Northumbria Community*, *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer* by J. Philip Newell, *The Pattern of Our Days: Worship in the Celtic Tradition from the Iona Community*, *A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season*, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and *Gather*. The Prayer for Light is by Rachel Mann. Scripture passages are from *The New Revised Standard Version*. All music reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-719660.