

## Words and prayers in the Celtic Spirituality Tradition



We travel together, mindful of the enfolding love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and for evermore *Psalm 125:2*

### Opening Prayers

Alone with none but thee, my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear when thou art near,  
Oh king of night and day?  
More safe am I within thy hand  
Than if a host did round me stand.

*A prayer of St Columba 521-597*

Circle me, Lord. Keep protection near. And danger afar.  
Circle me, Lord. Keep hope within. Keep doubt without.  
Circle me, Lord. Keep light near. And darkness afar.  
Circle me, Lord. Keep peace within. Keep evil out.

*David Adam*

### A reading from the Bible

## The Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.



We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, he died alone and forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. Amen

*This version is sometimes used on the Island of Iona*

## Prayers

I bind unto myself to-day  
The strong Name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three.



I bind this day to me for ever,  
By pow'r of faith, Christ's incarnation;  
His baptism in Jordan river;  
His death on Cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb,  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;  
I bind unto myself to-day.

I bind unto myself to-day  
The pow'r of God to hold, and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need;  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;  
The Word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,  
The strong Name of the Trinity;  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One, and One in Three.  
Of Whom all nature hath creation;  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

*A prayer of St Patrick (5<sup>th</sup> century), re-written by C F Alexander (19<sup>th</sup>)*

Through Christ, the Firstborn of all Creation  
we pray for respect for the earth.

Through Christ, Prince of Peace  
we pray for peace for earth's peoples.

Through Christ, King of Love  
we pray for love in our lives.

Through Christ, Lord of the Dance  
we pray for delight in the good.

Through Christ, Divine Healer  
we pray for forgiveness for past wrongs.

Through Christ, the Morning Star  
we pray for the grace to make a new start for ourselves and for our world.

And so may God bless us and keep us today and always  
the father, the son and the holy spirit.

And until we meet again may God hold us in the palm of his hand. Amen

*From Wellspring Liturgy*