

# The Camel-Allen Churches

## Celtic-style Morning Prayer at home



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Opening Acclamation & prayer

Blessed are you, Creator of all things;  
the heavens adore you.  
Let the whole earth worship you.  
Let all peoples proclaim you.  
Let all nations obey you.  
Let us serve you in love and in peace.

**Come, Lord, and rule.**  
Come into our hearts and fill them with love.  
**Come, Lord, and rule.**

Come into our minds, and fill them with peace.  
**Come, Lord, and rule.**  
Come into our lives and fill them with light.  
**Come, Lord, and rule.**  
Come into our days and fill them with glory.  
**Come, Lord, and rule.**

### Hymn: *(we say or sing)*

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
First begotten from the dead,  
Thou alone, our strong defender,  
Liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus, true and living bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;  
Here in loving reverence bow;  
Here for Faith's discernment, pray we  
Lest we fail to know thee now,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil Thee,  
As of old in Bethlehem,  
Here as there Thine Angels hail Thee,  
Branch and flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, Thy offering, finished  
Once for all when Thou wast slain,  
In its fullness undiminished  
Shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life imparting Heavenly manna,  
Stricken rock with streaming side,  
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
Worship Thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Risen, ascended, glorified!

### **We make our confession and receive God's forgiveness...**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**Father,  
we have sinned against heaven and against you.  
We are not worthy to be called your children.  
We turn to you again.  
Have mercy on us,  
bring us back to yourself  
as those who once were dead  
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen**

I believe that God forgives and sets us free.

**We believe that God forgives and sets us free;  
and at the day's beginning  
we commit ourselves  
to follow where Christ calls  
and to love one another.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleans us from our sins,  
and restore us in his service  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Iona Gloria**

O God, you summon the day to dawn,  
you teach the morning to waken the earth.  
Great is your name; great is your love.  
***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

For you the valleys shall sing for joy,  
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Great is your name; great is your love.  
***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow,  
the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy  
Great is your name; great is your love.  
***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

Your love and mercy shall last forever,  
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise  
Great is your name; great is your love.  
***Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

### **The Collect for the ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Readings** John 17.1-11; 1 Cor 12.12-27 – you might like to look these up in your own Bibles before reading this version of 1 Cor 12 from...

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<sup>12-13</sup> You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which *he* has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

<sup>14-18</sup> I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

<sup>19-24</sup> But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a *part* of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its

proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes *no* difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

<sup>25-26</sup> The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

<sup>27-31</sup> You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body": apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, helpers, organizers, those who pray in tongues.

But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part?



## Reflection

Today, continuing our series looking at some of the common New Testament metaphors used to describe the church, we come to the most extensively used picture: the church as the body of Christ.

**One body:** In our Gospel reading, Jesus prays that his followers may be one even as he is one with the Father. This is the over-riding message of this metaphor: there is one Body not many: not a Church of England a Roman Catholic and a Methodist body; not a happy-clappy and a bells and smells body; not a St Teath, a Camelford and a Delabole body but we are all one body: <sup>1 Cor</sup> 12.12 *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.* <sup>13</sup>*For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.*

The church in each location is, in a sense, a microcosm of the whole but nevertheless we cannot be whole, be one, without one-another.

**One body, many parts:** This one body, the church is made up, like any physical body, of many parts. Different parts of the body have different roles and functions, but all are necessary all equally valuable. (pause to reflect: what part are you?) The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as the church: every part dependent on every other part. We need one-another, we are designed to be inter-dependent.

Just like a physical body, the church can suffer from any number of 'complaints' that limit our function and effectiveness (with acknowledgements to author Michael Green) such as: 'amputation' some parts are no longer attached, cut off from one another, not committed to the whole; 'dislocation' – some not sure if they are a part so are not pulling their weight (sometimes we have made them feel unwanted) 'elephantiasis' – one part grows over large and takes

over; 'atrophy' – damage by disuse ('some people are doing nothing with the faith except keeping it!) 'fractures' – fallings-out, arguments, slights breaks in relationship affect the whole body; 'bruising', hurts from the past leave an area of weakness that can diminish function and well-being; or 'arthritis' – bone grinding on bone, needs the cartilage of love to cushion our dealings with one another.

This body, the church, and each of us at one time or another, need the ministrations of Christ the healer to restore and set us free – but we must be willing to play our part and take the medicine and support one another whilst we recover.

So then just as well that...

**Christ is head of the body** cf Ephesians 4.15-16

<sup>15</sup>*But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,* <sup>16</sup>*from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

Christ is, we might say, the brains behind it all: directing, instructing and keeping the body together and enabling it, that is all of us together, to flourish, for the glory of God.



**Affirmation of faith** - tune *Hyfrydol* (eg *Alleluia sing to Jesus, or I will tell the wondrous story*)

We believe in God the Father,  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.

**Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray for those who may be born today  
and bless them in Jesus' name:

**The joy of God shine from your face  
and joy to all who see you;  
the shield of God surround your head  
and angels ever guard you.**

May every season be good for you  
and the Prince of Peace give peace to you

Let us pray for those who must work today  
and bless them in Jesus' name:

**God bless you today,  
the earth beneath your feet,  
the path on which you tread,  
the work of hand and mind,  
the things which you desire.**

And when the day is over,  
God bless you to your rest.

Let us pray for those who are sick in body mind or spirit today  
and bless them in Jesus' name:

**May the keeping of Christ be round you,  
may the guarding of God be with you,  
to possess you, to protect you  
from danger and from loss.**

May the gospel of the God of grace  
bless you from head to sole.

Let us pray for those who may face death today  
and bless them in Jesus' name:

**May God provide for you  
all that is needed  
for body, mind and soul  
as you face the final journey**



May Christ take your soul in his arms  
and bring you through the balancing time  
to the dwelling place of peace  
and make it your home forever.

And let us pray for ourselves and one another:  
**In the isolation or the busyness of this day  
grant me a stillness of seeing, O God.**

**In the conflicting voices of my heart  
grant me a calmness of hearing.**

**Let our seeing and hearing  
our words and our actions  
be rooted in a silent certainty of your presence.**

**Let our passions for life  
and the longings for justice that stir within us  
be grounded in the experience of your stillness.  
Let my life be rooted in the ground of your peace, O God,  
let me be rooted in the depths of your peace. Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

### **Hymn**

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your Church with life and pow'r;  
O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your Church in every part.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore – for this we plead.

Revive us, Lord; is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting -  
equip thy church to spread the light.

### **Benediction**

**Kindle in our hearts, O God.  
The flame of love that never ceases,  
that it might burn in us giving light to others.  
May we shine for ever in your temple,  
set on fire with your eternal light,  
even your son Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen**

**May the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be among us and remain with us always. Amen**

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