

Celtic Eucharist

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Asheboro, NC

Celtic Eucharist offers a “contemporary” worship option at Good Shepherd once a month. These services are held at 6:00 in the evening on the second Sunday of the month during the winter months (November, December, January, March, April). During the summer months, Mass on the Grass is offered instead.

Celtic Eucharist borrows from several different sources, including worship resources from the Iona community in Scotland and the New Zealand Prayer Book, as well as EOW.

Setup

Celtic Eucharist offers holistic contemplative experience that, in the Celtic spirit, touches upon all of the senses and seeks to remind us of our connection to one another, the earth, and God. Chairs are arranged in a circle with (electric) tealight candles in between each chair, and the room is otherwise dimly lit. A large icon/image from the Book of Kells is projected onto the wall for contemplation. A small amount of incense is also burned prior to the service. A podium is set up on the opposite side of the circle from the altar for the cantor during the litany and for readings and prayers (a green hanging was created especially for this service with a Trinity symbol made out of moss). The bread used for communion is baked by a woman in the church. The Rev. Joe Mitchell gives his brief homily/reflection from the middle of the circle. Moments of silence between parts of the liturgy are extended. A singing bowl is used to close moments of silence and indicate when to stand.

Music

Kristen Leigh Mitchell arranges and leads the music, which is a combination of paperless chant and singing, as well as traditional hymns and songs from the Iona Community. Prelude music is instrumental on either guitar or fiddle, featuring traditional Irish tunes and airs or other ambient music. The EOW Phos Hilaron is chanted on a simple arrangement composed by Kristen. During the candle lighting, Kristen teaches and leads a community chant in a paperless style accompanied by a shruti box (drone). During the “offertory” moment, Kristen usually teaches a chant to the congregation that will be repeated during communion, often Tar A Thighearna (a short chant sung in Gaelic). The Sanctus is a call and response setting by John Bell of the Iona Community. The song at the closing is usually a hymn with Irish associations (Be Thou My Vision or St. Patrick's Breastplate) or some other appropriate hymn accompanied by guitar.

*A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
in the Celtic Tradition*



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

6:00 pm

The Presider and People enter in silence. A period of meditation follows. All stand at the sound of the bowl ring.

Lorica Litany



Minister	Today I shield myself with threefold power,
People	Invocation of the Trinity.
Minister	Belief in the threeness, profession of the <i>oneness</i> ,
People	In union with <u>the</u> Creator
Minister	Today I shield myself with the power of Christ's baptism, hanging, and <i>burial</i> .
People	His rising again and his ascension, his descent for <u>the</u> last judgment.
Minister	Today I shield myself with the loving power of the <i>Cherubim</i> ,
People	Obedience of angels, service <u>of</u> archangels,
Minister	Hope of rising to my reward, prayer of the <i>patriarchs</i> ,
People	Sayings of the prophets, teachings of the apostles, faith of confessors, deeds of <u>righteous</u> people.
Minister	Today I shield myself with the power of heaven, the light of <i>the</i> Sun.
People	The brilliance of the moon, the <u>splendor</u> of fire,
Minister	The speed of lightning, the swiftness of the wind,
People	The depth of sea, firmness of earth, <u>hardness</u> of rock.
Minister	Today I shield myself with God's power to <i>direct</i> me,
People	God's strength <u>to</u> uphold me.
Minister	God's good sense to <i>guide</i> me.
People	God's <u>ear</u> to listen to me.
Minister	God's speaking to <i>speak</i> for me,
People	God's <u>hand</u> to guard me.
Minister	God's path opening <i>before</i> me.
People	God's shield <u>to</u> protect me.
Minister	Christ be <i>with</i> me.
People	Christ <u>be</u> before me.
Minister	Christ be <i>behind</i> me,
People	Christ <u>be</u> inside me.
Minister	Christ be <i>beneath</i> me.
People	Christ <u>be</u> above me.
Minister	Christ in the heart of everyone who <i>beholds</i> me;
People	Christ in every eye that sees me; and Christ in every <u>ear</u> that hears me.

Minister
People

Today I shield myself with threefold power, invocation of the *Trinity*.
**Belief in the threeness, profession of the oneness, in union with
the Creator.**

Presider

Teach us, Loving God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach us to hold it lightly, not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach us to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while we have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. You, O God, are the giver, and in you is the life that never dies. **Amen.**

All are seated.

The Gospel Reading

After the reading:

Minister
People

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

A period of silent mediation follows the Reading.

The Reflection

Phos Hilaron

All stand at the sound of the bowl ring.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Presider

Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Lend your ear to us now as we make our prayers to you for the Church and the world.

Minister
People

Enliven the Church for its mission.
That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Minister
People

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Minister
People

Lead us, and every people, into the ways of justice and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Minister
People

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Minister
People

Inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.
That all may act with integrity and courage.

Minister Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.
People **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

Minister You have called us to serve you, O God.
People **Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All are seated.

Candle Lighting for Prayers and Thanksgivings

During the music, all are invited to come forward and light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.

The Grace & Peace

All stand at the sound of the bowl ring.

Presider As you were in the ebb and flow, as the beginning becomes the ending, and the ending a new beginning, be with us, ever-present God. May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot ever be broken.

People My sisters and brothers, the Peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Presider and People share the Peace of Christ.

Song of Offering

A communal song is sung as the Holy Table is set.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider Lord God, may the gifts we offer increase our love for you.
People **And bring us to eternal life.**

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death. Therefore, with saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

The People repeat after the Minister for the Sanctus.

Presider

Holy and Dear One, we praise and bless you for the wonderful gifts that are all around us. Yet this night we thank you most of all for the greatest gift, that of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who on the night before he suffered took bread into his holy and venerable hands, and with his eyes lifted up to heaven to you, O God, gave thanks, blessed and broke the bread, and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat you all of this, for this is my body.

In like manner, after he had supped, taking also the chalice into his holy and venerable hands and again giving thanks to you, he blessed and gave it to them, saying: Take and drink you all of this. For this is the chalice of my blood, of the new and eternal testament: the mystery of faith, which shall be shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. As often as you shall do these things, you shall do them in memory of me.

And so, Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. As we eat and drink these holy gifts, make us one body, food for the world, and one blood to be poured out for the life of all.

By Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, O God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider

And now let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.

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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread and invites the People to share in the Communion of our Lord. All are welcome to receive. The elements will be passed around the circle. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. All may join in the song during Communion. When all have received, the Presider returns to the Holy Table.

Presider

Let us pray.

All

We believe, O Lord, that in this breaking of your body and pouring out of your blood we become redeemed people. We confess that by our sharing of this sacrament we are strengthened to endure in hope until we lay hold and enjoy its true fruits in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Presider offers a blessing, and the People respond, 'Amen.'

Music at the Closing

The Presider gives the dismissal, and the People respond, "Thanks be to God."



