

## Some Prayers of St. Columba

Let me bless almighty God,  
whose power extends over sea and land, whose angels watch over all.

Let me study sacred books to calm my soul:  
I pray for peace, kneeling at heaven's gates.

Let me do my daily work,  
gathering seaweed, catching fish, giving food to the poor.

Let me say my daily prayers,  
sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet, always thanking God.

Delightful it is to live on a peaceful isle, in a quiet cell,  
serving the King of kings.



Kindle, O God, in our hearts, we pray,  
the flame of love which never ceases,  
that it may burn in us and give light to others.  
May we shine forever in your temple,  
set on fire with that eternal light of yours

which puts flight to the darkness of this world;  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## AFLAME WITH LOVE Prayer in the Celtic Christian tradition

The early Celtic church was deeply connected to the God who created this world. It is good to remind ourselves of this rich Celtic Christian heritage of



prayer upon which we can draw, as we seek to live in God (*en theos*), similarly enthused, and aflame, with God's love.

*Above:* The Abbey on the island of Iona, the heart of St. Columba's mission and continuing inspiration for pilgrims and people of prayer & action today

*Below:* the statue of St. Aidan on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne



### **Casting a Caim/Ring of Protection**

Draw an invisible circle around yourself with your right index finger by extending your arm towards the ground and turning clockwise with the sun. As you do this, become aware that you are safe and encompassed by the love of God.



**May You be a bright flame before me**  
**May You be a guiding star above me,**  
**May You be a smooth path below me,**  
**And a loving Guide behind me,**  
**Today, tonight, and forever.**

*\*Cross image by Cari Buziak*

### **Some contemporary Celtic Christian prayers**

#### ***Lifelong praise***

In the rising and the setting of the sun, may we praise you.  
In the waxing and the waning of the moon, may we praise you.  
In the ebbing and the flowing of the tide, may we praise you,

In the beginning and the ending of our lives, may we praise you.

#### ***Morning mist***

As the morning mist shrouds the river  
and is then lifted by the gentle rays of the rising sun,  
so may our clouded spirits be raised by the warmth of your love.

I arise today

in your strength to uplift me, in your power to direct me,  
in your love to enfold me, in your wisdom to guide me,  
in your way to lead me this day and every day.

#### ***Be with us***

Be with us, O God,  
in our working and our resting, in our laughing and our crying,  
in our eating and our fasting, in our travelling and our staying.  
Abide with us, each day, each night.

#### ***Christ above me***

Christ above me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ around me,  
this day, this night, each day, each night

#### ***Night prayer***

lay down and rest in your safety,  
your angels surrounding me, your love enfolding me,  
your Spirit guarding me, this night and every night.

#### ***Circle me***

Circle me this night with your protection, O God.  
May Christ the Saviour surround me with his presence.  
May the Holy Spirit guard me while I sleep.  
And may your holy angels keep watch over me.

#### ***God in all***

God in my waking, God in my sleeping,  
God in my rising, God in my resting,  
God in my walking, God in my sitting,  
God in my living, God in my dying.

