



# Celtic Evensong

## Lent IV: God's works revealed

22 March 2020 4:00 pm

*We are so happy you are here.*

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

*Please remember to silence all devices*

**Opening Musical Meditation**

*Si Bheag, Si Mhor*

*Celtic Melody*

### **The Opening Meditation**

When it seemed there was no hope  
I have seen your light in the eyes of a child.  
When it seemed there was no joy  
I have heard your delight in the voice of a friend.  
When it seemed that life was stale  
I have smelled the freshness of sunlight on my skin.  
When all seemed emptiness  
I have touched your presence in the hand of a stranger.  
When the future seemed barren  
I have tasted life's moisture on the lips of another.  
Thanks be to you, O God,  
For your embodied love.  
Open my senses to your presence  
That I may love you and care for you in all things.

*- Celtic Prayer of Thanksgiving*

### **Evening Prayer**

In the quiet of this place  
in the dark of the night  
we wait and watch.  
In the stillness of the soul  
and from its fathomless depths  
the senses of our hearts are awake to you.  
For fresh soundings of life  
for new showings of light  
we search in the silence of your Spirit, O God. Amen.

Listen now to the Word of God.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

*Lector*

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

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Silence

Reflection

The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris

*Two minutes of silence follows.*

Music for Meditation

*Captain O'Kane Celtic Melody*

**Prayers of Intercession (from Iona Abbey)**

Let us pray for those our hearts now bring before God as we say “May they know the deep peace of Christ”:  
Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health, eith their families, friends and those who care for them, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit, and all who care for them, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence the suffering people of the world, and the places where people are experiencing division, injustice and violence, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome addiction or abuse, those supporting and working with them, and all whose suffering has distanced them from those we love, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement, and for those who have died, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence those whose names we do not know, but are known to you, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

We hold in your healing presence and peace those whose needs are not known to us, **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

May your wisdom, God, guide all nurses, doctors, and those who work in every part of our Health Care System and across the world. We pray for all those whose work put them in danger at this time, We hold in your healing presence , **may they know the deep peace of Christ.**

*Leader* Jesus says, “Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest.” So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

**Light Prayers**

*During the playing of the music, please continue to offer your prayers*

Music during Prayers

*Be thou my vision*

*Celtic Melody*

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### The Concluding Prayer

**O Christ, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbor, to our foes to our friends, to our kindred all. O Christ of the loveliest Mary, of the poor and the yearning, from the humblest thing that lives, to the highest of all, kindle in our hearts within the flame of love.**

### Concluding Blessing

*Celebrant* To God the Creator, who loved us first and gave this world to be our home,  
to God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising pioneered the way of freedom,  
to God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts,  
be praise and glory for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

### Concluding Meditation

*The Lark in the Morning*

*Celtic Melody*

## Our Prayers are offered for

Bishop Barbara Harris, Klarque Garrison, Steve Stephanides, Kirsten J. Helgeland, Christine Reichert, Nancy Brown, Denise Gagnon, Geraldine Lockard, Carolyn Young, Tracy Jenkins, Michael Spriggs, Helen Phillips, Geordie, Elizabeth Gray, Jana and Henley Kaytes, the Gary Pezzulo Family, Tom and Priscilla Lemons, Suzanne MacNeil, Mary Miller, Kathy and Family, Vivian Forbes, Tiffanie and John Surabian, Rick Bingham, Claudia R., Fran and Jack Nalipinski, Marcia and Frank P., Anthony, Elizabeth Ladejobi, Heidi S., Natalie and Jon Cunha, Purisky Family, Joyce LaChappelle Barhorst, Glenn Ravdin, Rebecca Peebles, Suzy W., William Mead, Webb Family, Peggy Raredon, Jeff and Jon C. Papps, Stephen Duff, James Skeadas, Andrew Rossi, Kim Shaw, Leo and Judy Murphy, Ross Dolloff, The Tache Family, Cindy Carr, The Duda-Laramie-Davis Families, Helen Watson-Felt, Diane Rowand Burns, Cliff Lewis, Gary Young, Joseph James, Barbara and Gerry Porter, Sarah Bailly, Richard and Madeleine Bailly, the Schwab Family, Elaine and Peter Velonkas, the Joyce Family, Linda P.; those who are afraid or anxious, those suffering as a result of the Covid-19 virus, the Salem Public Schools, the Episcopal Dioceses of Jerusalem and Massachusetts, the victims of natural disasters, all refugees, and for the victims of sexual abuse, harassment, exploitation, human trafficking and all hate crimes.

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The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates  
The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris  
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips  
Larry Kamp  
Tom and Karen Tucker  
Hugh MacKay and Joanne Moar

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