

September 13th, 2026 Celtic Christian Spirituality in Creation Time.

The Middle Path.

Psalm 103.11-14 & Matthew 18.21-35

We will be integrating Celtic Christian Spirituality into our worship during Creation Time.

Today I will offer some introduction into Celtic Christian Spirituality, put it into our context and wrap up with how the scripture reading relates.

Early Celtic Christian communities led lives that witnessed everything as significant.

Hospitality, prayer, attentiveness and the inclusiveness of Jesus was reflected in their everyday life.

Home and community were sacred.

Stitching a sweater or sitting at bedside were honoured. Caring for the animals, being present at a birth, laughing, having a meal together, walking in the forest. A moment mattered.

Making a cup of tea was an act of love.

Living was precious.

The sacred expressed itself in the smallest and largest deeds. There was blessing and gratitude for what life was offering in the moment.

Celtic mythos met Christian spirituality to form the foundation for life.

Everything perceived and experienced through the lens of God.

The relationship between polytheism, animist and monotheism bridged.

The many realms of the goddess and nature myths, was seeped in deep care of the environment and compassion for all life. The druidic way organically grew into early eastern Christianity and coalesced.

They found this truth in early scripture and through the mystics and contemplatives of the time and formed Celtic Christian spirituality-a synergistic relationship between the ancient ways and those newly discovered.

And their faith was founded in the Trinity.

3 in 1. The dance, dancer, dancing; all doing the same thing in different ways.

No separation. One constant. Cohesion toward the common ground-the middle path that wove substance and energy into matter and lived as creator, creating and created - traditionally known as, God the father and God the son and God the holy spirit, all encapsulating the God source.

For Celtic Christians, there was never separation. These energies existed in everything. They knit this tapestry and it made sense to them. What joined with the mystical expression of the Trinity and became the lasting now.

Small church communities in many ways reflect the Celtic Christian mind set and way of life.

Caring for everyday needs.

Hospitality.

Prayer for self and others on a daily basis.

Being mindful of each other's needs, sorrows and joys.

This is much more difficult in a larger community.

Intimacy and relationship are thinner and stretched apart as the number of people and needs increase.

On the whole, we do better in small groups

And these practices shared in the small group setting mirror Jesus' ministry.

Hospitality

Acceptance

Prayer

Inclusiveness

Forgiveness

Like Celtic Christians we too embrace the contextual and sensible and life-sustaining meaning of scripture and weave it into our everyday lives.

We focus on the task at hand-do what needs to be done.

We offer help to a friend/neighbour in need.

We care and celebrate the small things. Drinks and snacks. News of neighbours. Taking care of our building. Decorating. Listening. Praying and practicing forgiveness.

Forgiveness can be hard.

But we have God walking right along with us reminding us of how integral this is to our own being and subsequently, others.

The unrelenting pain of being unable to forgive-symbolized through torture in the reading from Matthew, reminds of the mercy and freedom that comes with forgiveness.

It is unlikely that we can find our closeness to God without forgiveness-it is the very nature of the Trinity. We as beings circle through the dance and find manifestation as dancer while dancing.

This connection, these parts need our whole heart-one not weighed down by the hardness of unforgiveness. It invites us to be free. To not be a slave to our old skin. To flow in the mystical wind of the Trinitarian story.

This is our story to unpack, re-vision, live through, enter into, feel each part and then experience the joining.

Excerpt from Psalm 103 11-14

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
 so great is the steadfast love towards those who are in awe of the Creator.
as far as the east is from the west,
 so far God removes our transgressions from us.
As a parent has compassion for their children,
 so the Lord has compassion for those who are in awe.
Creator. Creating. Created.
Mother. Spirit. Child.

(Hebrew fear translates to-awe, reverence, deep respect.)