

# OUTLAW PREACHERS

**#OP11**

Eucharist

Celtic  
Healing & Wholeness  
Service



# Communion Service

## THE LITURGY

Pastor Nar: The Lord be with you

**Community:** *And also with you*

Pastor Nar: Lift up your hearts

**Community:** *We lift them to the Lord*

Pastor Nar: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**Community:** *It is right to give God thanks and praise*

Pastor Nar: This is a place of shelter. This is a time of comfort. This is an invitation into the Eternal Dance of our Creator God. Here and now the God who made the universe waits to embrace us. Here and now we come to experience God's presence and love once again.

Bec: With all that we are ...  
Parts that are whole, and parts that are broken  
Parts that are well, and parts that are sick  
Parts that are joyful and parts that are in pain

Gabe: With all that we are ...  
We come to worship you, O God  
For you are gracious, merciful and kind  
We long to find our rest in you

Pastor Nar: O Divine Voice, You sing and the universe comes into being

**Community:** *O Divine Breath, You breathe and all things spring to life*

Bec: O Divine Word, You call and creation is sustained

**Community:** *O Divine Flesh, You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation*

Gabe: O Divine Spirit, You contain all that has been formed

**Community:** *O Divine Life, You are the pulse of all that is*

Pastor Nar: And so, in faith and expectation, in wonder and celebration we gather to remember this mystery:

**Community:** *In you all things live and move and have being  
In all things, you live and move and express your Divine  
artistry*

Pastor Nar: And so we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and devotion

**Community:** *Amen*

Pastor Nar: You are indeed a gracious, merciful and kind God; our Creator whose very essence is Love. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, through him you have reconciled the world to yourself. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation – forever uniting creation with her Creator.

#### PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Gabe: O God who gives birth to all that we see, all that we know, all that we dream, and all that is unseen, unknown and unimagined

**Community:** *We celebrate your life that holds and nurtures the universe,  
we celebrate your love which joins creation as one and  
unites all things with you*

Bec: We give thanks for your life which is incarnated in Christ and which is revealed in every created being

**Community:** *We savor your presence which is limitless and welcoming,  
and your Spirit which fills every moment of time and every  
fragment of matter*

Gabe: Yet, even as we receive again your vision of life, we recognize that we have been blind to its universal heartbeat

**Community:** *Even as we remember the connectedness of all things, we acknowledge that we have divided and separated ourselves, and forgotten our part in your creation*

Bec: Even as we are energized by your breath within us, we confess our destructiveness, and repent of the harm we have done to ourselves and our world

Pastor Nar: For the sake of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation, who, in death, disarmed all that is evil, and, in resurrection, stripped death of power, we ask you to recreate us, to reconnect us, and to restore to us the vision of your life in creation, and the power to live it.

**Community:** *Amen*

#### INTERCESSION

Pastor Nar: Let us open ourselves to the grace of God, to the brokenness of our world, and to the call to be agents of healing, redemption and re-creation

Gabe: Where human greed has stripped the world of beauty and life, and robbed people of dignity and sustenance ...

**Community:** *We pray, O God, for a new vision of abundance, and a new commitment to nurture the world that feeds us and share with those who do not have*

*Silent Contemplation*

Bec: Where human hatred has severed relationships, and broken the connection that unites creation ...

**Community:** *We pray, O God, for love to be renewed, and compassion to draw us back into union*

*Silent Contemplation*

Pastor Nar: Where human loneliness, weakness, sickness and grief, and the suffering of our planet and its inhabitants hide the signs of your life ...

**Community:** *We pray, O God, for healing, comfort and strength and for the courage to keep hoping in the renewed creation that has begun and is to come*

*Silent Contemplation*

**Community:** *O God, restore our faith, revive our hope, rekindle our love. O Lord, hear our prayer*

#### COMMUNION

Pastor Nar: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it

**Community:** *And the Lord's glory covers the earth as the waters over the sea*

Bec: The trees of the field clap their hands, the birds of the air sing songs of praise

**Community:** *And if we should fail to express our worship, even the rocks and stones would cry out!*

Pastor Nar: And so, we lift up our hearts, and we lift up our voices

**Community:** *And we offer thanksgiving and adoration to the Lord the Creator of all*

Gabe: Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from seeds sown into the earth you have given us the gift of bread to feed and nourish us. At Jesus' last meal with his friends, before facing the cross, Our Lord took bread, blessed it and broke it. Then he passed it among them saying:

Pastor Nar: This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat, and do this to remember me.

Bec: Blessed are you, Sovereign of the Universe, for from grapes which grow ripe and sweet on the vine, you have given us the gift of wine to refresh and heal us. At Jesus' last meal with his friends before facing the cross, Our Lord took the cup of wine and blessed it. Then he passed it among them saying:

Pastor Nar: This is my blood shed for you. Take and drink, and do this to remember me.

Gabe: And now we come to your table again, Jesus. Mindful of how you laid your life down, so that we and creation could be born anew. Mindful of how you took your life up again, so that we and creation could be filled with the resurrection life of God.

Bec: Mindful that we cannot earn or purchase this privilege, but that it is your grace which beckons us, and your grace which ensures that all creation may be one and whole.

Pastor Nar: May your Spirit work in these fruits of earth, so that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's body and blood. May your Spirit work in us, who are children of earth and children of the Divine, so that we may be transformed into Christ's body, carrying his life, his care, and his salvation to all creation.

**Community: Amen**

Pastor Nar: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Community: Christ has come. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor Nar: Remembering Christ's Incarnation, his life and teachings, his Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able.

Receive our praise and thanksgiving. With your Word and Spirit, bless us, your people, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; embracing the depths of your love and grace, may we be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

**Community: Amen**

Pastor Nar: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember and proclaim the love and grace of our Lord Jesus the Christ.

**Community:**     ***Lord, we receive you***

Pastor Nar:       Last year we invited you to come forward to partake in the Eucharistic Meal. This year we will do things a little differently. Instead of everyone receiving the bread and the wine from us, we are inviting you to share them with each other ... and with us! In addition to sharing the body and blood of our Lord, we invite you to take the time to be present with those you bring to the Table: look them in their eyes, feel for their heart and speak a blessing over them and give to them a word of life. Feel free to invite as many as you will to share with you at the Table of the Lord one at a time. You are free to partake and share as often as you desire.

Bec, Gabe and I will begin the process by each of us sharing with each other and then each bringing one of you to the Table and offering you bread and wine. Those who have received are invited to go and bring others to the Table.

**Community:**     *[Participation in the Sacramental Meal]*

DISCIPLES' PRAYER

Pastor Nar:       Lord, teach us to pray:

Gabe:             Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother  
Holy and blessed is your true name  
We pray for your reign of peace to come  
We pray that your good will be done  
Let heaven and earth become one  
Give us this day the bread we need  
Give it to those who have none

Bec:             Let forgiveness flow like a river between us  
From each one to each one  
Untie the knots of failure binding us  
As we release the strands we hold of others' faults  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days

Pastor Nar:       Come swiftly – make yourself known  
For yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory  
Forever your name is All in One.

**Community:**     ***We affirm this with our entire being.***

Pastor Nar:       We give thanks to you, Creator God, that you have refreshed us and we implore that in your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord – who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit: one God, one Family, one Community, now and forever. Amen.

Gabe:             The Lord be with you

**Community:**     ***And also with you***

Bec:              Let us bless the Lord

**Community:**     ***Thanks be to God***

#### REMEMBRANCES AND BLESSINGS

Pastor Nar:       At this time, as we are gathered in a ‘thin place’ – where heaven intersects with earth – we wish to remember those of our family who have not been able to join us at the (re)Union, and bless those, both here and away, in need of special grace from our loving Creator. As we speak their names and hold them in our hearts, may God bless them and show us how we can be part of God’s unfolding grace in their lives.

We remember and bless ...

**Community:**     ***(Feel free to speak the names of others who come to your heart. If you wish, may also light candles in remembrance.)***

Pastor Nar:       Lord, in your mercy ...

**People:**         ***Lord, hear our prayer***

Pastor Nar:       May the love of God our Father, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the presence of the forever-indwelling Mothering Spirit be with you always. Amen.

## Celtic Healing & Wholeness Ritual

This service is made from four elements coming together. First, one of the most important symbols in Celtic Christianity is the circle – it appears around the cross-beam of Celtic crosses and in many other places. The Celtic circle represents love, eternity and God – the everlasting which has no beginning and no end. Second, one of the benefits to us of the Atonement is that, through grace, we are clothed with Christ’s righteousness, covering us like a robe. Thirdly, Anointing Oil, used by the many peoples of God as a Sacrament of Healing. Finally, we have the gathered body of Christ. Although we are all individually known to God, our collective hopes and prayer and loving touches are effective for the receiving of grace in the heavenly realms.

A number of chairs are arranged in a circle as prayer positions. Members of the gathering are invited, as the Spirit moves them, to take up one of these prayer stations. Inside the ring are three ministers – representing the First Community – who address each person in the circle in turn.

First a light shawl representing the robe of righteousness is gently placed around their shoulders. Today we will use a hand-made scarf of variegated colors representing the multifaceted grace of God. A second minister in the circle then anoints each robed forehead with the sign of the cross. At this point a third minister leads the congregation in a communal prayer for healing, the same prayer for each individual. In this way the whole body gathered becomes involved in the ministry. Those who feel so inclined are invited to stand behind the supplicants and add their touch and prayers. Supplicants are free to remain there as long as they so wish to receive further prayer from the ministers as they soak in the love and grace of God. As the supplicants depart from the circle, other members of the gathering are invited to enter. The prayer of healing we will use is:

***May the Spirit of the living God, flow into this beloved child  
Healing where there has been harm  
Touching with kindness wounds inflicted from outside  
Relieving guilt and heartache from within  
Strengthening where there has been weakness  
Listening to and understanding your secret heart  
Speaking words of affirmation, acceptance and love  
Bringing wholeness to your entire being  
Reflecting the glory of Imago Dei. Amen***

## WELCOME

Pastor Nar: We welcome you to this Celtic Healing and Wholeness service. It is important to note that the ancient Celtic Christians – somewhat removed from the Roman Church – had developed a holistic spirituality as opposed to the more dualistic influence of the Greeks. They maintained an awareness of the sacred in all times and places, found the presence of the Creator throughout creation, retained a respect for mystery and so much more. I embrace their belief that God is not in a distant heaven to be ‘called down’ but is here if we’ll but open our eyes and our hearts to see. It is my prayer that today we will have eyes to see God among us – not merely God encircling us, but the Trinity inviting us into the Divine Dance that will ultimate encircle all Creation.

Bec: The Mighty Three  
My protection be  
Encircling me

You are around  
My life, my home  
Encircling me

O Sacred Three  
The Mighty Three  
Amen

Gabe: Circle me, O God  
Keep hope within  
Keep despair without

Circle me, O God  
Keep peace within  
Keep turmoil without

Circle me, O God  
Keep strength within  
Keep weakness without  
Amen

Pastor Nar: O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out

**Community: *We praise you***

Pastor Nar: You fashioned the earth and all that live there

**Community:** *We praise you*

Pastor Nar: You give breath to the people upon it, and Spirit to those who walk on it

**Community:** *We praise you*

Pastor Nar: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me  
For the LORD has anointed me  
That the eyes of the blind be opened  
The broken-hearted be healed  
The poor hear the Good News  
The captive be brought out of darkness

**Community:** *Your kingdom come, O Lord, your dreams fulfilled*

Pastor Nar: So shall we sing a new song, O Lord

**Community:** *And praise your name for ever*

Pastor Nar: Having been reconciled to God through Jesus, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

The circle before you is a reminder of the everlasting nature of the God who is Love. Never beginning and never ending. Surrounded by the love of God and the love of the Body of Christ around you, come and receive healing mercy, symbolized by this anointing with oil and covered with the grace of Christ.

**Community:** *[Enter the healing circle as you are moved by the Spirit. Those in the gathering, pray the following healing intercession over each supplicant within the circle in turn.]*

**May the Spirit of the living God  
Flow into this beloved child  
Healing where there has been harm  
Touching with kindness wounds inflicted from outside  
Relieving guilt and heartache from within  
Strengthening where there has been weakness**

***Listening to and understanding your secret heart  
Speaking words of affirmation, acceptance and love  
Bringing wholeness to your entire being  
Reflecting the glory of Imago Dei  
Amen***

Pastor Nar: As we conclude this healing service, I offer you the following benediction:

*I pray that out of God's glorious riches you may be strengthened with power through the Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*Now to the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Go in health, wholeness and peace, continuing to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength ... and love your neighbor as you are learning to love yourself.