

## **Feast of St. Patrick**

### **Welcome to the circle of prayer:**



***Circle us Lord  
Circle the poor with your justice  
Circle the violent with your peace  
Circle the broken with your wholeness***

***Circle us, Lord, circle us  
with the wonder of your love  
with the beauty of your creation  
with the glory of your presence  
Circle us, One in Three, Three in One  
Circle us with the joy of your abiding.***  
(Christine Sine)

### **Introduction**

Little is known about the life of St. Patrick. Even his birthplace is uncertain, some sources placing it in England, others in Scotland or Wales. According to his autobiographical *Confessio*, he was taken from his home and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd. Patrick himself said that he first truly discovered God was with him during this lonely and difficult time. After six years he escaped, returned to his family, became a cleric and came back to Ireland to spread the Christian faith. Known as the “Apostle of Ireland,” he was never canonized by the Church but was declared a saint by popular acclaim. On March 17, the presumed day of his death, he is remembered and honoured all over the world. We invoke his intercession today for all Christians, especially for missionaries and for those who are facing persecution for their faith.

### **Readings:**

- *I often prayed in the daytime as well as at night - in the forest, on the mountains, and before daylight I was roused to prayer – and I felt no harm would come to me for the Holy Spirit seethed within me.* (St. Patrick)
- *The Celtic Christians, like Patrick, saw God in all creation ... they involved God in every task – there are prayers for milking the cow, making a meal, creating a plow, forging a sword. They recognized God as Divine Creator who cared for and delighted in the universe He created.* (David Adams)

***How do you experience God in your everyday life?***

**Closing Prayer;**

***We arise today present with the Holy One,  
in the embrace of love,  
in the hope of renewal  
in the joy of belonging to the great I AM***

***We arise today in the in the life of the  
Creator,  
in the image of the Eternal One  
Planter of gardens,  
Bearer of burdens,  
Breath of the world***



***We arise today, children of the Faithful One,  
Lover of souls, reviver of spirits  
Blesser of all that is good and true and praiseworthy.***

***We choose to live today in the name of the Caring One,  
Compassion in our hearts  
Gratitude in our thoughts  
Generosity in our deeds  
Justice as our passion***

***We choose to live today in the light of Christ. Amen.***  
(Christine Sine)

**Blessing:**

***May the whisper of the Father be the one that wakens us ... Amen  
May the open hand of the Son be the one that raises us ... Amen  
May the prompting of the Spirit be the one that sends us  
to live and to be Mercy in our day ... Amen  
May the Blessed Three lead us safely home ... Amen***

**Hymn: *The Deer's Cry* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DONuyLwWPaY>**