

Celebration of St. Brigid of Kildare

Welcome to the Circle of Prayer

We gather today to honor St. Brigid, one of the most beloved saints of Ireland, founder and abbess, peacemaker, spiritual guide, woman of contemplation and action and model of wise female leadership. She was renowned for her compassion for the sick and for those who are poor, for her hospitality, her love of and care for nature, her healing powers and her commitment to justice. Let us draw inspiration from Brigid, whose life and values align with ours as we seek to image the Face of God in all Creation. Today we also remember Sister M. Antonio Egan, founder, community leader, risk-taker, zealous missionary, courageous and strong Mercy woman whose life and ministry gave witness to her trust in a provident and merciful God.



Hymn: *Be Thou my Vision* (Liam Lawton/Theresa Donahoo)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp9hsyGqR7k&list=PL46mF3zqsYlz4TcscxtsHq0_wPFfTykxx&index=2

Readings:

- *She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.* Proverbs 31:26
- *I would like an abundance of peace; I would like full vessels of charity; I would like rich treasures of mercy; I would like cheerfulness to preside over all.* Brigid of Kildare
- *Brigid is for us today an icon of sacred feminine strength. It is particularly the strength of faithfulness to the interrelationship of all things. What most endangers us as an earth community today is that we have neglected our interrelationships as countries, faiths and races. Awareness of the sacred feminine enables us to protect one another's well-being, not simply the well-being of our people, our community or our species.* John Philip Newell

Reflection / sharing

*What attributes of Brigid resonate most with you?
How does Brigid's life speak to our commitment to
"image the Face of God in all Creation?"*

Prayer to St. Brigid

Brigid, you were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness; You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness
in mind, body and spirit. Amen

Blessing: Jan Richardson



May the power of Brigid inspire us
May the grace of Brigid attend us.

AMEN

May the flame of Brigid enliven us
May the story of Brigid engage us.

AMEN

May the God who provided her with
all these gifts provide them also for us
that we may go out into the world
with her lavish generosity and her creative fire.

AMEN.