

Christ, visited by the shepherds,
strengthen all who work on the land
O Lord hear us, Graciously hear us

Christ adored by the wise men, guide all
rulers and governments
O Lord hear us, Graciously hear us

Christ exiled in Egypt, give comfort to all
refugees
O Lord hear us, Graciously hear us

**Father help us to welcome you with
joy
May you see Christ in others
Be Christ to others
That we may dwell in Him and He in
us**

Amen

St Andrew and St Cuthman

Steining

Reflections#
REFLECTIONS

Open The Door



Open the door

Welcome

Celtic Daily Prayer - New Year: The Opening Door

We say together:

**This day is a new day
That has never been before
This year is a new year, the opening
door
We have joy in your coming
You have given us life
And we welcome your coming**

Psalm 27 (selection)

We say together:

**The Lord is my light and my
salvation, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life
of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I ask from the Lord, this
only do I seek
That I may dwell in the house of the
Lord all the days of my life
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in His temple
For in the day of trouble,
He will keep me safe in His dwelling
He will hide me in the shelter of His
sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock
Hear my voice when I call Lord,
be merciful to me and answer me
My heart says of you; seek his face
Your face Lord I will seek
Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in
anger,
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me God
my Saviour
Teach me your way Lord, lead me in
a straight path
because of my oppressors.
I remain confident in thee
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living
Wait for the Lord, be strong and
take heart,
and wait for the Lord.**

Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust
in God. Trust also in me. In my father's
house are many rooms. If it were not so,
I would have told you. I am going there
to prepare a place for you. And if I go
and prepare a place for you, I will come
back and take you to be with me that
you also may be where I am. You know
the way to the place where I am going.
John 14: 1-4

Prayer of St Columba

Almighty Son and Father and Holy Ghost
Eternal ever blessed gracious God
To me, the least of Saints, to me allow that
I may keep a door in Paradise,
that I may keep even the smallest door,
the farthest door, the darkest coldest
door.
the door that is least used, the stiffest
door,
if so it be but in thy house O God, if so it
be that I may see Thy glory.
even afar, and hear Thy voice O God,
and know that I am with Thee, O God.

I saw a door open in heaven
(Revelation 4:1)

God the Lord has opened a door
Christ of Hope, door of joy!
Son of Mary, hasten Thou to help me, In
me Lord Christ, let there be joy.
(Celtic prayer)

Shared responsive blessing

*(Look to each other as we say the last
paragraph)*

Christ, heralded by the angels,
Open our eyes to your presence
O Lord, hear us, Graciously hear us

Christ born of the blessed Virgin,
Teach us obedience to your word
O Lord hear us, Graciously hear us

Christ born in a stable, give hope to the
homeless
O Lord, hear us, Graciously hear us

Song: One Day

One day I heard you call my name
Became aware of someone searching for me
Calling into the crowd
There was something in your voice
And I was drawn towards You
Wanting to see You, knowing who You are
I saw an open door,
I went inside and was looking out,
Instead of being out, looking in.

*And I will follow you wherever you lead
And I will answer You whenever You call
Now that I've seen You
There is nothing else that I can do
There's only You*

I felt You take me by the hand
And lead me out of darkness
Put of the night and into the light
I was surprised, I was so dirty
It was just as though I'd seen myself
for the first time
Then all my shame was gone
And everything I've ever done
And wished I'd never done was on You

Then You reached into my heart
And healed where I was hurting
Nurturing me so patiently
You piled me high with gifts of grace
And peace and joy and love
With open arms You welcomed me in
And now I'm not my own
Forever I belong in Your family with You.
Kate Simmonds, Mark Edwards 2000

Bible meditation

I have placed before you an open door
that no one can shut. I know that you
have little strength, yet you have kept my
word and have not denied my name.
Revelation 3:8

I am the door; by me if any man enter in,
he shall be saved, and shall go in and out,
and find pasture.
John 10:9

Music

Here is the Little Door, Herbert Howells

Here is the little door,
lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more,
but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed,
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
and Oh such tiny feet.

Reading - I Stand By the door

Samuel Moor Shoemaker 1893-1963

I stand by the door
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far
out,
The door is the most important door in
the world-
It is the door through which folk walk
when they find God.
There's no use my going way inside
and staying there,
When so many are still outside,
and they, as much as I,
crave to know where the door is.
And all that many ever find
Is only a wall where the door ought to be
They creep along the wall like blind men
With outstretched groping hands, feeling
for a door, knowing there must be a
door,
Yet they never find it....
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world
 Is for people to find that door - the door
 to God.
 The most important thing anyone can do
 Is to take hold of one of those blind
 groping hands,
 And put it on the latch- the latch that only
 clicks
 And opens to that persons' touch.
 People die outside that door, as starving
 beggars die
 On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead
 of winter
 Die for want of what is within their grasp
 Others live on the other side if it – live
 Because they have found it
 And open it and walk in and find Him...
 So I stand by the door.
 Go in great saints- go all the way in-
 Go way down into the cavernous cellars
 Away up into the spacious attics
 It is a vast roomy house- this house
 where God is
 Go into the deepest of hidden casements,
 Of withdrawal, of silence of sainthood.
 Some must inhabit these inner rooms, and
 know the depths and heights of God,
 And call outside to the rest of us how
 wonderful it is.
 Sometimes I take a deeper look in
 Sometimes venture in a little further, but
 my place seems closer to the opening...
 So I stand by the door.
 There is another reason why I stand there
 Some people get part way in and become
 afraid
 Lest God and the zeal of His house
 devour them.
 For God is so very great and asks of you
 your all
 And these people way inside only terrify
 them more
 Somebody must be by the door, to tell
 them that they are spoiled
 For the old life - that they have seen too
 much

Once taste God and nothing but God will
 do anymore
 Somebody must be watching for the
 frightened
 Who seek to leave just where they came
 in, to reassure them how much better it
 is inside.
 The people too far in sometimes do not
 see how near these are
 To leaving- occupied with the wonder of it
 all
 Somebody must watch
 for those who have entered the door
 But would like to run away - afraid.
 So for them too I stand by the door.
 I wish those who are far in would not
 forget how it was before they got in.
 You must not forget the people outside
 the door.
 You can stay in too long and forget those
 outside the door.
 As for me I shall take my old accustomed
 place
 Near enough to God to hear Him, and
 know He is there,
 but not so far from others as not to hear
 them,
 and remember they are there too.
 Where? Outside the door
 Thousands of them, millions of them
 But – more important for me - one of
 them two of them,
 ten of them, whose hands I am intended
 to put on the latch
 So I shall stand by the door and wait for
 those who seek it
 'I had rather be a doorkeeper'
 So I stand by the door...

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Silence (12-15 min approx)
